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Page 41

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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

October 1993

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 135, No. 4

October 1993

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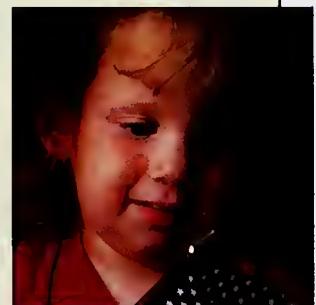
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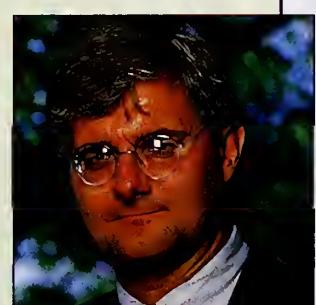
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COVER Today's children can graduate to a better world by learning a few simple principles. See page 25. Photo by Bob Firth/International Stock Photo.

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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Korea Remembered

The day before I read the articles about the Korean War in the July issue, I visited a legislative assistant to a U.S. Congressman. Also with me was a veteran of the Korean War. The veteran made a comment about his war experiences, and I was stunned when the congressional aide asked, "When was the Korean War?"

I sent the articles to the legislative aide so at least one more person will know about the sacrifices of those who fought in that war.

*Ken Dalecki
Colesville, Md.*

The cover of the July issue was great, except that poor GI was not only fighting the communists and the bitter cold, but he did it with his mittens on backwards. I still have mine, and I tried them on, but they don't fit as well that way.

*John A. Rogers
Hummelstown, Pa.*

How come nothing was mentioned about the fighting 40th in Korea?

*Richard C. Murray
Lowell, Mass.*

In the article, "Invasion," Norman Goldstein repeats the oft-told canard that Kim Il Sung "served as a Soviet officer in World War II." In the definitive work, *The Origins of the Korean War: Liberation and the Emergence of Separate Regimes, 1945-47*, Professor Bruce Cumings concludes, after exhaustive research that, "There is no proof that Kim fought in the Soviet Army."

*Wilson A. Heefner
Stockton, Calif.*

The battles for O.P. Harry in April and June 1953 were at least as significant as the Pork Chop Hill battles.

*John J. Balek
Joliet, Ill.*

Thanks again for remembering "The Forgotten War."

*Edward Zelvis
Bourbonnais, Ill.*

Much was written about the brave efforts of the 1st Marine Division, but the Army divisions and their participa-

tion were almost ignored—except for the heroic delaying actions of the 24th Division. The 2nd Infantry Division was one that deserved recognition, too.

*Albert S. Loyd
Olympia, Wash.*

Prayer & America

I find many of Barry Lynn's statements ("Don't Force Us to Pray," July) very flaky. Any man with a history of seven years with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is hardly a person to speak for mainstream religious persons.

*John F. Bruch
Warrensburg, Mo.*

"Don't Force Us To Pray" is a refreshing change from the drivel of Michael Novak ("Prayer in School: An Intolerant Supreme Court," December).

I only wish Lynn would have gone further. He should have mentioned that not one of our first six Presidents was

Christian. All were deists or agnostics. And the cost of the chaplains on Capitol Hill was more than \$100,000 each. Also the cost of chaplains in the military and the cost of an embassy in the Vatican is outrageous and absurd.

*William C. Walker
Clearfield, Pa.*

The First Amendment says "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF." Why don't we give the second phrase equal weight with the first phrase?

*Earl E. Zellner
Mendota, Ill.*

I serve as an honor guard at many veterans' funerals, both locally and nationally, where prayer by our chaplain is a high point of the service. All branches of the Armed Forces and all American Legion Posts have chaplains and no one objects to their prayers. Our Constitution established freedom of religion to prevent an official state religion, not freedom from religion.

*Richard W. Phillips
Modesto, Calif.*

I thoroughly enjoyed the interview with Barry Lynn. Also, the article, "Founding Father, Favorite Son," by Lowell Ponte about Thomas Jefferson was superbly written. Then, much to my chagrin, I noticed the Legion's position on school prayer, highlighted in a box.

I believe the purpose of The American Legion is to sanction, secure and support all things necessary to enhance the well-being of our country's soldiers and veterans. I do not believe The American Legion should suffer our soldiers and veterans to oppose the traditional separation of church and state.

*Murray Brasler
Sherman Oaks, Calif.*

We have just celebrated the freedom that the Fourth of July brings and with this we should be free to pray.

*Fred J. Wolff
Lincoln, Neb.*

Why must you lower the standards of your fine magazine with an article by

Please turn page

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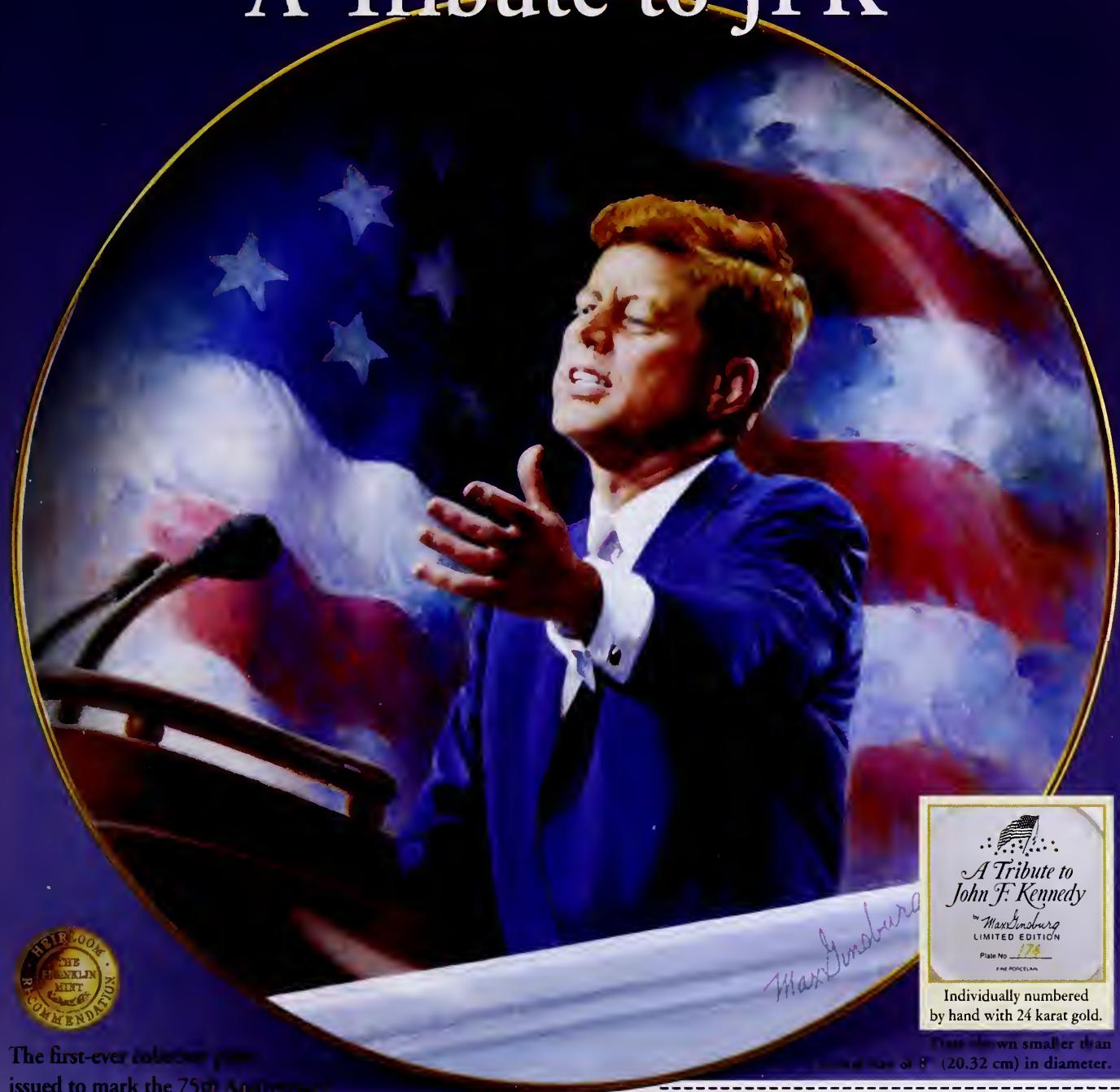
THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. Volume precludes individual acknowledgments of comments on editorial content.

This month's question is:

Will school choice work? (See Page 30.)

(314) 474-7474

A Tribute to JFK

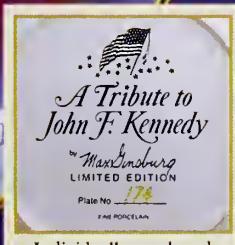


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someone from the ACLU? I'd rather read an article by Hitler!

Thomas A. Gazia
Alliance, Ohio

Isn't it ironic that a high school athletic coach can use God's name when swearing at his team during practice, but God's name cannot be used in a reverent manner in the classroom or the locker room or on the field?

Lorraine Powell
Manton, Mich.

Your strange article by Barry Lynn reminds me that the only place in the world where atheistic communism is alive is on the American college campus.

Donald McLeod
Germfask, Mich.

We need to pray for Lynn; he seems to be lost.

Rano S. Bofill
Man, W.Va.

It seems Lynn's law school training had a much more profound influence on him than did his theological training.

Lou Ellis
Sherrill, N.Y.

Having spent 40 years as a teacher and a principal in an inner-city (Philadelphia) public school system, I can attest to the tremendous need for prayer and values in education. Our public schools *cheat* children because of a lack of values such as honesty, compassion, tolerance, integrity and human dignity. Prayer in school is needed now, urgently. Our society depends upon mutual respect. Mr. Lynn needs to learn to respect God and the rights of His followers.

William Sheridan
Havertown, Pa.

Dean Was Top Brass

The July article, "Invasion," contained a brief biography of Army Maj. Gen. William F. Dean. I remember him very well from my now-deceased father who was a very proud combat infantryman from the 44th Division in Europe. He told me how one morning he was airing out his blanket and trying to dry his socks next to a foxhole. My

Gays In The Military: ABOUT THE VETVOICE 'VOTE'

IN THE JUNE issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, readers were asked to vote yes or no on the question, "Should the U.S. Armed Forces lift the ban on gays?"

According to the Audio Listing Service, Inc. (ALS), of Columbia, Mo., which operates the Vetvoice system for us, 1,461 readers voted; 959, or 66 percent, favored gays serving in the military and 502, or 34 percent, opposed.

This pro-gay "vote" did not jibe with the 500 or so recorded messages left on Vetvoice by readers. An ALS sampling found a wide majority did not favor gays in the service. Nor did the pro-gay vote agree with 212 (77 percent) of the 274 letters Legionnaires sent us that were opposed to gays in uniform.

Why were the telephone "votes" so pro-gay, compared to the telephone messages and written letters? ALS tells us the telephone votes were rigged. A batch of some 300 Vetvoice "votes" were received during a three-hour period beginning 10:30 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993. Only an automatic calling system could have made that number of calls in that time period, ALS technicians say.

ALS president Richard Ward says these calls "continued virtually non-stop until 2:30 a.m. on June 6. This is a typical calling pattern by system hackers. They place calls on weekend nights to lower their phone costs."

Ward reported "other atypical peaks" and concluded: "The above activity is clearly an attempt to unfairly influence the poll outcome. We strongly encourage you to disregard the results of the poll."

ALS technicians could not determine which votes were genuine and which were fraudulent. "As you know," Ward wrote, "we've never claimed Vetvoice polls are scientific, but we have relied on the good will of callers not to abuse the system. Unfortunately, we've discovered the system has been seriously violated." — *The Editors*.

father looked up and saw Gen. Dean, his division commander, standing there looking at him. The general gave him a few words of encouragement and lauded his efforts at good foot hygiene.

Later, Dean published an autobiography and my dad wrote him expressing his respect and admiration for the general and recounted the incident next to the foxhole in Europe. The general responded with a free, autographed copy of his book and a very nice letter. I never knew Gen. Dean, but if he could inspire my father and apparently many other men in such a positive manner, then he must truly have been a great leader.

William N. Wessinger
Savannah, Ga.

Classy Magazine

The military history articles and pictures in THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine have been outstanding. I often use the information in my military history classes and the pictures on the JROTC Bulletin Board. When I am finished with the magazines, I place them at the reading table in my classroom, where they are a favorite with my students.

Future veterans affairs will be in the hands of the younger generation, and a knowledge of our military heritage will be invaluable. Keep up the good historical articles.

Dudley L. Fry Jr.
Goldsboro, N.C.

Money To Hanoi

The news that the United States is ready to give Hanoi access to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which receives much money from American taxpayers, is surprising, to say the least.

This spring, we had more than 100,000 people at a welcome-home parade in Little Rock, not just for those who returned from the Gulf, but for men and women who had served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I'll never forget how moved I was as I watched them march down the street to our cheers and saw the Vietnam veterans finally being given the honor they deserved all along.

I believe America must take a hard line with countries that abuse human

Please turn to page 82

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Del. Eleanor H. Norton (D-District of Columbia)

Put yourself in the position of the residents of the District of Columbia.

They rank *third* per capita in federal income taxes paid to the federal treasury; are first per capita in overall taxation; were fifth per capita in military personnel in the Persian Gulf; and were fourth per capita in casualties in Vietnam. Yet in 1991 when the Gulf War vote was taken, the District had no vote in the House and neither vote nor voice in the Senate.

Every piece of legislation the D.C. city council enacts must come to Congress before it becomes law. Congress may change D.C. laws and budget, in spite of the district's wishes, as if the city were a federal agency rather than a jurisdiction of 600,000 Americans. No other jurisdiction — not even the four territories, whose residents pay no federal income taxes — is taxed without full representation in Congress or must submit its budget or laws to the central government.

My statehood bill, H.R. 51, calls for the historic federal district to be left under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. Only the neighborhoods of the district, which have no relevance or relationship to the federal presence, would become the state of New Columbia.

To create the state, Congress can reduce the size of the federal district, as it did in 1846 so that Virginia could retain slavery by reacquiring land it had contributed to form the district. If Congress can return land to maintain slavery, Congress can liberate land to establish democracy.

The only two alternatives — making the District part of Maryland, or giving the District full voting rights in Congress — demonstrate that only statehood can provide a full remedy.

Maryland's treatment of Baltimore, its only large city, confirms that it would not accept another. Voting rights in Congress, already rejected in a failed constitutional amendment in 1978, would be half a loaf of rights. Congress could still veto every law and dictate how to spend every dollar raised in the district.

Our country has proudly challenged undemocratic practices throughout the world. It is time to bring that challenge home and reject the indefensible denial of democracy at the very seat of government. It is time to support D.C. statehood. □

YES



Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-California)

NO



Advocates of statehood for the District of Columbia have a valid point when they complain about their lack of voting representation in the U.S. House and Senate. In fact, I agree with them that citizens of our nation's capital should have the right to be represented in Congress.

But if these advocates of statehood would only agree with me that the voting rights of residents of Washington, D.C., should be the same as those of residents of other cities, this problem would be solved in short order.

Unfortunately, statehood supporters won't accept equal rights. They insist on superior rights. Unlike every other city in the country, this city wants to be able to elect two U.S. Senators and a state government, all by themselves. If Washington, D.C., gets two senators, what will prevent the larger cities of Los Angeles or New York from demanding two senators of their own?

The District of Columbia was formed from land belonging to Maryland and Virginia. The lack of voting representation for residents of the Virginia portion of the District of Columbia was taken care of many years ago, when their part of D.C. was returned to Virginia.

There is no reason why the same solution won't work for those who live in the Maryland part of D.C.

Returning the City of Washington to Maryland (retrocession) would hardly be overwhelming to Maryland. The city's population would be one-ninth of the total state. Washington would become the fifth largest jurisdiction in Maryland.

While many assume Maryland would reject the return of their territory on fiscal grounds, I have no doubt that retrocession could be accomplished on financial terms that would be attractive to Maryland.

The only good reason not to agree to retrocession is the opposition of the city itself, which continually insists on an "all or nothing" approach. As long as the residents of Washington, D.C., oppose returning to Maryland, they should not be forced to do so.

But if the residents of Washington, D.C., would become willing to accept representation equal to that enjoyed by residents of every other city in the country, there would be *no* good reason why they shouldn't be able to get it. □

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

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Another Arts Scandal

Continuing controversy over the arts faces actress Jane Alexander, President Clinton's nominee to head the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Some staffers on Capitol Hill are predicting the introduction of an unusual amendment — to cut-off funding for art objects that feature dismembered bodies.

The current target of controversy is Joel-Peter Witkin, who received four NEA grants totalling \$50,000 and came under fire for a series of photos, including one showing a head cut in half, with the two halves kissing each other. He also produced a photo entitled, "Testicle Stretch With the Possibility of a Crushed Face," showing a string around a man's testicles running through a pulley connected to barbells dangling in front of his face.

Witkin's lawyer reportedly threatened a lawsuit against an anti-NEA group, the Christian Action Network, which was stopped by security guards from showing the pictures in the Capitol building to members of Congress and their staffs. They were eventually shown in the office of Rep. Philip Crane of Illinois, who wants to completely de-fund the NEA.

Gay Plan Transformed

President Clinton's new policy on military homosexuals underwent a dramatic transformation as Congress wrote the new plan into law. While supporters of the old gay ban were disappointed with the Clinton policy, bills codifying it and passed by the Senate and House Armed Services Committees prompted them to declare victory.

In contrast to the Clinton plan, the congressional version authorizes immediate discharges for verbal and non-verbal statements of open homosexuality, gives the Pentagon the authority to reinstate questions about homosexuality during recruitment and it doesn't protect homosexual orientation.

Sources said the administration basically gave up the fight, and that they expect the committees' bills will become law.

Meanwhile, Supreme-Court watchers are asking if Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will recuse herself from a chal-



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

lenge to the gay policy if it comes before the court.

Ginsburg worked for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for nine years before becoming a judge; and the ACLU is among those challenging the new policy in the courts.

Gay Ban Twist

The new biography of Colin Powell, *Sacred Honor*, includes a tantalizing revelation about how President Clinton could have avoided the whole gay controversy.

Author David Roth reports that the staffs of Powell and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Sam Nunn were working on a modified policy on gays in the military even before Clinton took office. But Roth reports that Clinton failed to consult with either man before announcing that he would insist on a complete repeal of the old ban. That forced the Joint Chiefs and Nunn to dig in their heels against any dramatic changes.

Eco-Backlash

An emerging industry-union alliance is threatening the power of the environmentalist movement, normally accustomed to getting its way in Washington.

Increasing labor-management cooperation in support of timber jobs in the

Northwest is a signal that environmental legislation such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will no longer have an easy ride through Congress. The AFL-CIO released a study last year bemoaning the fact that the federal government spent more money protecting wildlife than workers.

But the slashing of timber harvests in the Northwest is just one factor galvanizing the labor movement. Another is the growing involvement of working people in the "Wise Use Movement," which favors the use of natural resources and private property rights.

Under the umbrella of the Alliance for America, several hundred farmers, loggers, miners, ranchers and fishermen gathered in Washington this month to "put people back into the environmental equation." Members of the Alliance want to derail the National Biological Survey, a new law they believe would authorize government agents to intrude on the rights of land owners in order to carry out environmental studies.

(For a critique of the environmental movement, see "The Eco-Crisis Myth," Page 34).

Health Care

Growing anger over the costs associated with illegal immigration has guaranteed that any new national health-care plan will not provide free coverage for illegal immigrants. In California alone in 1992, health care for illegal aliens was estimated to have cost \$700 million.

The health-care task force, headed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, was viewed as opposed to limiting health benefits to citizens and legal residents because such a restriction could be used to deny emergency care to those least able to afford it.

But the administration and Congress were expected to agree on new measures to discourage abuse by non-citizens.

Assassination Threat?

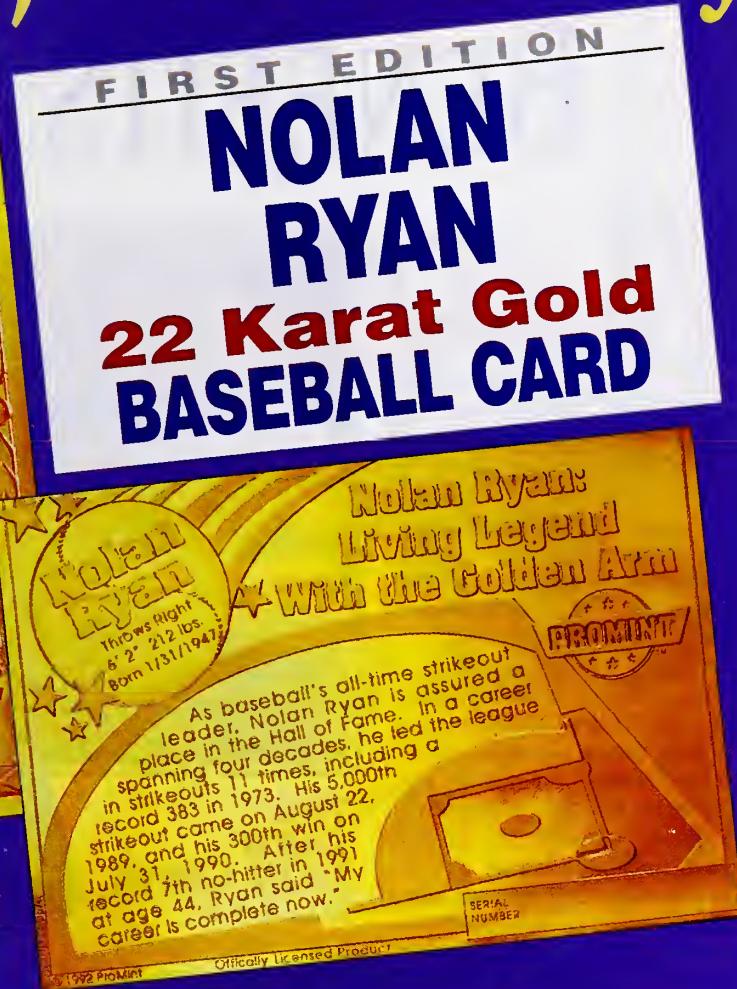
Despite the discovery of a massive arms cache maintained by the Nicaraguan Sandinistas for the Salvadoran guerrillas, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro is not expected to crack down on the Sandinistas who still control her Army, police and intelligence services. The reason: Analysts say she fears being assassinated if she confronts them. □

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.

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BENEFITS FOR ALL



HE ELECTRIC company was about to shut off the power, and the mortgage company was threatening to foreclose on the home Eric Paoli bought in

Lacey, Wash.

Paoli, a Gulf War veteran and former E-4 artillery specialist, had been unable to find work since leaving the Army in February 1993.

Unemployed and with a wife and two small children, he soon found the bills were rapidly mounting. Then Eric's wife, Jerrie, turned to The American Legion's Family Support Network. The Legion gave the Paoli family \$1,100 to pay the mortgage and electric bills, and to buy food.

"The Family Support Network helped when we needed it the most," says Jerrie, who was able to find work soon after receiving the Legion's help.

The Family Support Network is able to provide assistance to veterans such as Eric Paoli and his family because of the contributions from The American Legion's corporate partners. For example, MBNA America gave \$5,000 to the network this past year, bringing its total contribution to \$20,000 since 1989. This contribution is in addition to any affinity donation.

Such assistance to veterans' families was also made possible in part because Legionnaires use The American Legion VISA card.

The Legion receives a percentage of each charge made with an American Legion VISA card, and this money also helps support youth programs such as American Legion Baseball, Boys Nation and the National Oratorical Contest.

"The Legion's share of credit card charges also helps pay for Department



THE CARD THAT CARES

By using this card, you also can contribute to Legion programs such as Boys Nation and the Family Support Network.

Service Officers' training to assist veterans with VA claims," says Webber LaGrange, the National Treasurer of The American Legion. "If you apply for and use one of these cards, you are also helping teach children about the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance, and giving teenagers the information they need to stay away from drugs and alcohol."

For 35 years, The American Legion has participated in affinity programs such as life insurance and now credit cards. Affinity programs are agreements between the Legion and companies to provide services to Legionnaires as a membership benefit. Because of Legionnaires' requests, affinity programs have expanded to include a variety of financial services and a long-distance telephone program.

"Many members have asked that the Legion offer membership benefits

that other associations were offering," says LaGrange. "These programs are optional — to participate or not is the choice of each member. The programs cost nothing to those who don't participate."

Before entering into an affinity agreement, the Legion's National Finance Commission carefully studies proposals of company programs on a competitive-bid basis. Many are rejected because they lack the financial strength or long-term commitment necessary, and the National Executive Committee, with members from every state, must approve each agreement.

In 1987 the National Finance Commission considered many financial-service proposals from several banks and determined MBNA America's program was best suited for the Legion's long-range goals.

MBNA, with its main office in Delaware, is one of the nation's largest lenders through bank credit cards. MBNA also provides deposit, individual loan and card processing services.

Since MBNA began offering its services to the Legion, 250,000 Legionnaires have participated in MBNA financial programs. And one of the most-used services is The American Legion VISA card, which generated nearly \$2 million in revenue for the Legion from MBNA in 1992 — about \$24 per person, or an average of 35 cents each time a Legion VISA card is used.

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National Academy Of Sciences Study

AGENT ORANGE LINKED WITH MORE DISEASES

For Vietnam veterans who suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, a new report signals a recognition of the chemical's harmful wrath.

ARECENT \$995,000 National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (NAS/IOM) report on Agent Orange has bolstered the Legion's position that the defoliant causes many deadly diseases.

The study confirmed two important conclusions reached by Legion experts over the last decade:

- Agent Orange is directly linked to many diseases including but not limited to: chloracne, soft-tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and prophyria cutanea tarda (PCT).

- Independent, unbiased studies need to be conducted to assess the health hazards associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

While this report is a step in the right direction, and shows clear support for the Legion's findings, there are still many victims of Agent Orange who cannot get help.

One of these victims is Rodney Tyler of Greensboro, N.C. "They've spent almost a million bucks and 2½ years to study the [existing] Agent Orange studies, and all they came up with is that more studies are needed," says Tyler.

The NAS/IOM revealed its findings on July 27 after sifting through hundreds of studies of both veterans and civilians who worked with Agent Orange and related chemicals.

Tyler and other Vietnam veterans

with peripheral neuropathy had anxiously waited for the NAS/IOM report, which was to have provided guidelines for VA to begin paying benefits on the disease.

Peripheral neuropathy is a disease many link to exposure to Agent Orange, a deadly chemical defoliant used in Vietnam.

Yet, some good did come from the report. The scientific committee concluded that Hodgkin's disease and prophyria cutanea tarda (PCT) were directly linked to exposure to Agent Orange. VA immediately added both diseases to the list of Agent Orange ailments considered service-connected.

Three other diseases were already on that list—chloracne, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma.

But, more important, the NAS/IOM report stated flatly that these diseases were associated with exposure to herbicides. It was the first time any branch of the federal government has admitted that Agent Orange, and not service in Vietnam, was responsible for the health problems of many Vietnam veterans.

The admission was a major coup for veterans, but the battle is far from over for The American Legion and

veterans such as Rodney Tyler. Tyler was hoping that VA would provide him with a wheelchair ramp, but now what? "It's a pile of crap!" he says.

"We're on second base," according to Richard Christian, the Legion's expert on Agent Orange issues. Many, including Christian, believe the government would rather sweep the Agent Orange issue under the rug, but continuing pressure from the Legion has prevented that from happening. The most effective pressure, to date, has been the Legion's lawsuit against VA and the federal government.

The Legion filed suit in 1990, contending that VA failed to comply with the law when it did not conduct a major ground troop study of Vietnam veterans. The Legion also demanded an accounting of the \$63 million that Congress gave VA for the study. Where did the money go?

The Legion filed the suit when an Office of Management and Budget memo surfaced indicating that the Reagan administration may have been driven by budget concerns rather than health risks as they addressed the Agent Orange problems. Although the judge ruled against The American Legion in the summer of 1993, Legion officials are encouraged by the NAS/IOM report and have filed a motion to get the court to reconsider and also to include the NAS/IOM report in the record.

The Legion will appeal the case if necessary, using the NAS/IOM's own recommendations as justification for continuing the litigation. What the Legion is demanding in its suit is exactly what NAS/IOM has recommended — a full epidemiologic study must be conducted.

"This is a major victory for The American Legion and the veterans we serve," says Philip B. Onderdonk, the Legion's National Judge Advocate. Onderdonk hopes the NAS/IOM report will persuade the court to reconsider the suit. "The NAS/IOM report is really very good news. Instead of the Legion

Please turn page

Diseases Linked To AGENT ORANGE

Chloracne

Soft Tissue Sarcoma

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Prophyria Cutanea Tarda*

Hodgkin's Disease*

*Newly established link based on NAS study.

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telling the government that a study or a series of studies must take place, the NAS/IOM — itself a government body — has accepted and supported our recommendation," Onderdonk says.

"There still remains the question of what constitutes an honest study, and we believe the NAS/IOM report will press the government to pay attention to reports like our own Columbia study, which we know was accurate," he adds.

THE American Legion commissioned a Columbia University study to determine the effects of dioxin, especially Agent Orange, on Vietnam veterans. The results were released in 1988, not only confirming what was already suspected, but also presenting a sobering catalog of related problems linked to dioxin exposure.

Indeed, recommendations in the NAS/IOM report adopt almost exactly what the Legion has been demanding for nearly two decades. They call for:

- Follow-up studies on Operation Ranch Hand personnel, as well as Army Chemical Corps people. The NAS/IOM also supports the Legion's position that the studies should be undertaken by an independent, non-governmental scientific panel.

- Joint VA and Department of Defense efforts to create a computerized index to identify all Vietnam service personnel.

- The improvement of biomarkers that indicate exposure to dioxin.

- Creation of a nongovernmental organization to compile and test models of exposure based on the history and location of Agent Orange spray missions in South Vietnam.

- Selection of an independent, non-governmental scientific panel to evaluate the test models.

- VA and other government agencies to implement further epidemiologic studies, if the test models prove feasible.

Throughout its findings, NAS/IOM stressed the need for unbiased, independent, nongovernmental organizations, panels and study groups because of Vietnam veterans' lack of confidence over the flawed and failed studies by VA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Further distrust by veterans occurred when VA opened an Agent Orange registry. Some 40,000 Vietnam veterans signed up and underwent

examinations for problems they believed were related to Agent Orange exposure. Only a handful—about 500 — received VA compensation. About a third were denied outright, and some 29,000 claims are pending, awaiting final determination from an epidemiologic study that has yet to take place.

It's little wonder veterans like Rodney Tyler are angry.

"It is obvious that a lot of foot-dragging has taken place," says National Commander Bruce Thiesen. "I'm proud that The American Legion has the will to fight for Agent Orange victims. We've done it for more than a decade and we will not stop until there is justice."

The Agent Orange saga began in 1962, when aircraft, trucks and troops sprayed large areas of Vietnam with as much as 18 million gallons of Agent Orange and other defoliants. Operation Ranch Hand was the best known of these defoliation projects. It was discontinued in 1970 after scientific studies showed that dioxin, a contaminant of the herbicide, caused birth defects and other problems in lab animals.

At first, ground troops welcomed the sight of these defoliated areas, for it robbed "Charlie" of places to hide. But by 1978, some Vietnam veterans wondered who the enemy really was. Birth defects, rare diseases, cancers and neurological disorders were singling out Vietnam veterans and their children. The same year, The American Legion demanded that Congress address the problem.

In 1984, frustrated by the totally ineffectual and unscientific approach taken by VA and later the CDC to address the problem, the Legion commissioned Columbia University to conduct an Agent Orange study.

The Legion was confident in the accuracy of the independent five-year university study. Yet, when the results were released and presented to Congress, the federal government ignored the facts, disclaimed the study and, instead, accepted studies conducted by Agent Orange manufacturers and an obviously flawed and incomplete CDC study.

As a result, only three Agent Orange diseases were recognized by VA as service-connected until the July report by NAS/IOM, which added PCT and Hodgkin's disease.

"For the families of veterans buried
Please turn to page 74

The Legion and AGENT ORANGE

1962-71 Agent Orange is sprayed in Vietnam.

1978 Legion demands that Congress address the health problems of Agent Orange victims.

1978 Congress allocates \$63 million and directs VA to conduct a scientific study of GIs exposed to Agent Orange.

1981 VA tells Congress it cannot perform the study and assigns the task to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (CDC eventually abandons its attempt. There is no explanation as to what happened to the \$63 million.)

1984 Legion commissions Columbia University study which concluded there was a direct link between Agent Orange and dozens of health problems.

1988 Columbia study results are presented to Congress.

1989 Legion creates the Vietnam Veteran Family Assistance Program to provide help and referral services for Vietnam veterans and their families.

1989 Memo from Office of Management and Budget surfaces indicating budget concerns, rather than health issues, may have biased Agent Orange decisions during the Reagan administration.

1990 Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America file suit against VA and the federal government over Agent Orange, demanding a full, unbiased ground trooper study and a full accounting of the \$63 million.

1992 The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation gives a grant to the Registry of Birth Defects to help Vietnam veterans' children.

1993 Court denies Legion's suit.

1993 Legion requests the court to reconsider suit, based on NAS/IOM report, and continues to pressure the federal government for a full, unbiased ground trooper study.

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TOEHOLD TO VICTORY

The invasions of Guadalcanal and Tarawa were hellstorms of bayonet-in-the-gut fighting—and America's first steps to Tokyo.

By Sid Moody

THE BLUE Pacific turned blood red in World War II as island by island the United States learned about amphibious warfare and paid for the lesson dearly.

The first seaborne invasion — Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands — Aug. 7, 1942, was inept and nearly repulsed, but nevertheless heroic on the

part of the men. Tarawa, in November 1943, the first major step to Tokyo in the Central Pacific, was four days of furious fighting and violent death on a half square mile atoll of sand and coral.

Both landings taught grim but vital lessons. One lesson—although it was no secret—was that the Japanese would die for their Emperor rather than surrender. Another, perhaps, more important lesson was that new books on warfare would have to be written.

On June 26, flush with victory at Midway three weeks earlier, the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington ordered Maj. Gen. Alexander Vandegrift to ready his half-trained First Marine Division to invade Tulagi and

Sid Moody, a feature writer for the Associated Press in New York City, wrote "Battle for The Aleutians" in the August issue of the magazine.

Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands on Aug. 7. The first thing Vandegrift did was to consult an atlas to find where he and his men were going.

As warships of Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, commander, Task Force 61, led the landing convoy through the sweltering tropics, Marines below deck honed bayonets, rolled dice and played records of "Blues in the Night." Topside, a loner private skipped half dollars into the waves, assuring himself, "I won't have no use for 'em."

Fletcher was goosey after having two of his carriers, the *USS Lexington* and *USS Yorktown*, sunk from under him. Thus, he announced he would keep his covering force off the islands for only two days.

The Marines had a stiff but brief fight on Tulagi Aug. 7, but landed unopposed on Red Beach on Guadalcanal the same day. They quickly took a nearly completed Japanese air strip, which was later named Henderson

Please turn page

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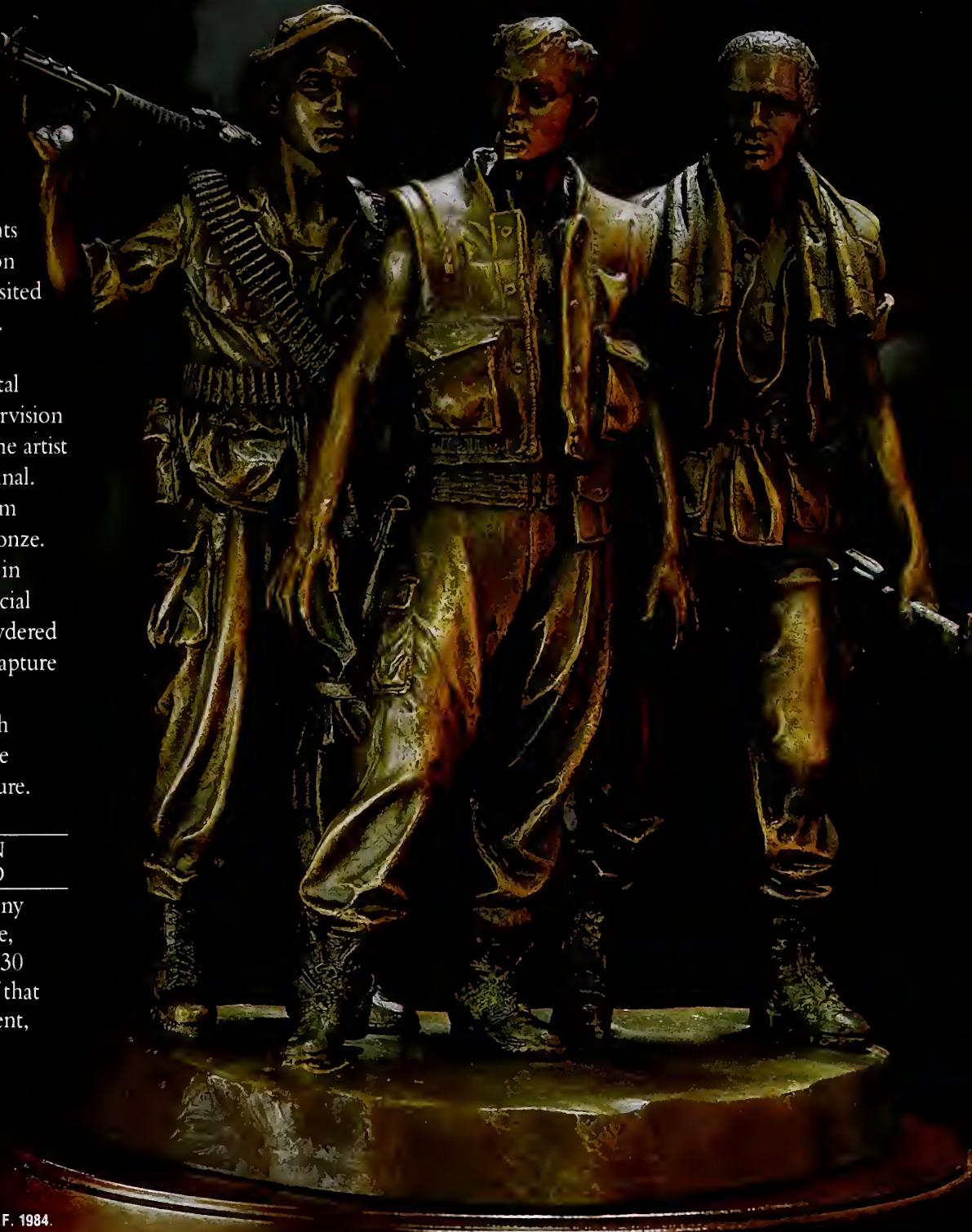
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ON TARAWA—
Invading Marines faced murderous machine-gun fire from pillboxes. One Marine of every 18 was killed.

Field in honor of a flier killed at Midway. The Marines rejoiced in their victory by enjoying refrigerated beer and bicycles hurriedly abandoned by Japanese and Korean airport workers.

Originally, the 90- by 33-mile island was lightly garrisoned. But, challenged by America's first land offensive against their newly conquered empire, the Japanese decided to make an all-out stand at Guadalcanal. The Americans, in turn, wanted the island to defend sea lanes to Australia and as a first step up the long staircase to Japan.

It was to become a six-month war of attrition, as each side eventually poured 60,000 men into the battle.

And the Japanese had a little rewriting of their own to do, as myths about the Americans had to be dispelled. For example, Japanese training manuals dismissed the Americans as "very haughty, effeminate and cowardly — intensely dislike fighting in the rain or in the dark." Guadalcanal forced the Japanese to change these assessments of American valor, as well as teaching them a healthy respect for the GI's overwhelming physical strength.

When Japanese warships sunk four Allied cruisers in the Battle of Savo

Island, a two-hour night action shortly after the landing, Fletcher fulfilled his vow by sailing off with his fleet and the 1,000-man Marine reserve force. This left the Marines with only four days of ammunition and a month's supply of food. Some Marines survived on eating captured Japanese oatmeal three times a day.

Tactically, the Japanese held an edge in repeated sea battles off the Santa Cruz Islands, Cape Esperance and Guadalcanal itself. The U.S. Navy suffered the loss of the carriers *USS Hornet* and *USS Wasp* and numerous cruisers, including the *USS Juneau*, which went down carrying the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa.

But the American and Australian warships were now under the aggressive command of Vice Adm. William "Bull" Halsey. Joined by land-based air power, Halsey's ships choked off Japanese reinforcements making their way 600 miles down The Slot from Rabaul. So many ships were sunk that the watery graveyard off Guadalcanal became known as Ironbottom Bay.

On Guadalcanal itself, the Japanese launched three major night attacks out of the jungle against Marine perime-

ters. But the Marines never faltered. One banzai charger was shot dead at Gen. Vandegrift's feet by his clerk typist, who pulled out a .45 in the nick of time.

"I underestimated the enemy's fighting power," said Col. Masanobu Tsuji after his starving, fanatical troops were thrown back by the Marines at Bloody Ridge. Japanese battleships pounded Henderson Field at point blank range but the Seabees were there, boasting they could repair a crater from a 1,000 pound bomb in 30 minutes.

The Japanese viewed Guadalcanal as "a turning point to victory or defeat." But in early February 1943 after six months, they could take no more. They evacuated their remaining 13,000 soldiers and conceded Guadalcanal to the Americans.

Guadalcanal had become a huge cemetery. The Japanese left behind 25,000 dead; the Marine 1st and 2nd divisions reported 1,042 killed; and the U.S. Army's Americal and 25th divisions suffered 550 dead.

More landings and heavy fighting were to come as Marines and Army troops fought up the Solomon chain. But the Japanese were on the defensive ever after.

On Tarawa, the resistance was
Please turn to page 56

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Technical Sergeant Francis L. Garrett, Company A, 1st Battalion, 71st Infantry Regiment, 44th Division. Toured European Theater of Operations. Shown original Army photo 1943, and today, Age 78, Retired Cave Creek, Arizona.



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As a matter of fact that's how it all began. That's my Uncle. I was looking for a special gift for him and came across a WWII antique watch in the local Army/Navy store here in Tempe. It was irresistible even though the price tag was \$200 bucks. It was worth every penny of it because the smiles and conversation went a long, long way.

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A Measure Of SUCCESS



DAVID B. SUTTON

The metric system hasn't disappeared. It's more important than ever for American businesses competing around the world.

By David E. Wilke



HAT EVER happened to the metric system?

Remember back in 1975, when Congress passed the Metric Conversion Act. We were told the entire nation was going metric, whether we wanted to or not. Soon we'd be driving kilometers instead of miles and weighing kilograms instead of pounds.

That turned out to be more talk than action. Eighteen years later we may buy liters of soda, but we still pump gallons of gasoline.

David E. Wilke is a Chicago-based freelance journalist. He wrote "Hatched To Succeed" in the October 1990 issue of this magazine.

To the average American citizen, metric may have almost disappeared. But in truth, it's never been far away. After all, it's the world standard for weights and measures. And as more and more U.S. companies have to compete in the world, they've had to switch their machine tools, screw holes, power cords and construction plans to metric.

"U.S. industry must convert to the metric system to make it more competitive in the international marketplace, which has become increasingly more homogenous and is growing faster than domestic markets," says G.T. Underwood, president of the American National Metric Council, a Washington association that helps business go metric.

"Some segments of the public continue to oppose metrification," he says, "but commerce and industry need to move ahead, and we welcome government's renewed interest in this effort."

Yes, indeed, Uncle Sam is back in the metric business.

In 1988 Congress passed the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act. It changed the original 1975 Metric Conversion Act to make metric the *preferred* system of weights and measures for U.S. trade and commerce.

To encourage the federal bureaucracy to get with the program, Congress then told all federal agencies to use the metric measures in buying goods and services. It set a 1992 deadline for the agencies to use metric in buying at least \$355 billion annually. But, exceptions were made for changes that proved impractical, inefficient or likely to lose markets for U.S. firms.

Predictably, the government set up a committee, the Metrification Operating Committee (MOC), to ensure the federal agencies complied with the program.

The MOC means more than red tape — it means greenbacks. For example, by Jan. 1, 1994, the design and building of most new federal facilities are supposed to be in metric units. The IRS and Government Printing Office, for example, are exploring the use of metric-sized paper, printed forms and documents.

If the government is doing more than inching—oops, centimetering—along to metric, what about the real money business? Talk to Carl A. Beck, president of the Charles Beck Machine Corp., in King of Prussia, Pa., and board chairman of the American National Metric Council.

Metric daily affects operations at his company, which manufactures industrial sheet cutters for paper, cardboard, film and textile producers. Much of his business is abroad. He wants large American firms to make more metric components so that small firms, like his, can then design and manufacture their own metric products.

"It's in the best interests of larger companies that buy from small business suppliers — or sell to them — to support this needed change to the metric system," says Beck.

But help may be on the way for people like Beck as the world solidifies more international trade agreements.

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THE GOLDEN EAGLE RING



PHOTO BY ROBERT OLSON FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

and international standards.

When Congress passed the Canadian Free Trade Act in 1989, it not only loosened trade restrictions with America's biggest trading partner, but encouraged metric for imports. Then last year, the United States joined Canada and Mexico in signing the North American Free Trade Agreement. This grouping has the potential to create a single North American trading bloc, comparable to that planned for the metric European Community.

Metrication will also help the troubling U.S. trade deficit. For example, one reason the Japanese say they don't import more from America is that they're metric and we aren't.

Sometimes, when U.S. products shipped abroad don't meet metric standards, they get rejected. This happened to General Electric when Saudi Arabia refused a delivery of appliances because the connecting cords were 6 feet long instead of the required standard of two meters (6.6 feet).

How much has America gone toward the metric system?

Although nobody answers this question with specific data, the National Metric Council's Underwood says nearly all U.S. packaged goods now are labeled in grams and milliliters, as well as pounds and ounces.

He says the most metric American industries are farm and earth-moving equipment, automotive, wine and distilled spirits, photographic equipment

GLOBAL DEALS—

To buy and sell internationally, Carl Beck's small manufacturing company must use metric measures.

and soft drinks.

Going metric has helped streamline operations at companies like John Deere & Co., the manufacturer of

farm and industrial equipment in Moline, Ill.

With metrication, the number of different screw sizes went from about 70 to 15.

I THER industries, like commercial aircraft and oil equipment supply, still use the traditional inch-pound standards, but find they have to metrify to enter into international joint ventures, or to satisfy customer regulations.

Consider the Tom Wheatley Valve Co., in Houston, which supplies valves to oil companies. Although it has a sizable export market, only a small percentage is metrified. Yet, overseas regulations necessitate giving test reports in both customary and metric units and documenting shipments this way.

According to Underwood, companies and industries that have made the move toward metrication generally have no regrets. And the cost of switching to the metric system, Underwood says, is not nearly as much as some fear. He cites General Motors, where the changeover was less than one percent of the projected cost.

What's more, there can be increased benefits from global manufacturing and marketing. Often, companies save money when they find that metrication requires fewer tools, or discover a met-

cation capability they didn't know existed.

Stan I. Jakuba, a metric consultant in West Hartford, Conn., worked with a company where about half of the thread-cutting machines had metric ability—something known to the machines' operators, but not to the supervisors.

Because of the federal government's increased phase-in of metrication, Jakuba says he's now doing more consulting for U.S. agencies, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Sometimes, there's a cost benefit when metrication is gradually introduced, as happened at Inland Steel Flat Products Co. in East Chicago, Ind.

According to Robert Olson, a staff consultant at Inland, the metric system was first used in the 1970s to handle orders. By the 1980s, it was being used to measure furnace temperatures. Today, it's used 100 percent in two joint ventures with Nippon Steel of Japan.

"Metrication benefits both the mathematical and engineering aspects of Inland's production and puts us in compliance with how the rest of the world measures things," says Harold Taylor, Inland's manager of technical and commercial development.

For companies with domestic and foreign markets, big savings come by using metric to eliminate dual systems for inventory and equipment.

Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria, Ill., learned this after switching to one system for the company's 38 domestic and foreign plants.

"It wasn't practical and it cost us money to make two versions of our products," says Jeff Hawkinson, a spokesman.

"Now that nearly all blueprints and specs throughout the world completely use the metric system, we can make a component in France, fit it into a machine in Brazil or Japan and then have the finished product returned to the United States for our markets."

From appliance cords to federal office buildings, the daily lives of those involved in construction, manufacturing and exporting are quietly going metric. There may also come a day in the distant future when the United States is declared officially metric, but by then no one may even notice. □



THE STOCK MARKET

LOSING a child is every parent's worst fear. But every parent also knows that there is more than one way to lose a child. □ As the 20th century began, there were many more childhood diseases than miracle cures. Parents trembled every time an infant caught a cold or ran a fever. As the century comes to a close, the physical health of most children is reasonably assured. □ Parents today fret over their children's well-being for very different reasons. □ Drugs, AIDS and the sexual revolution, violent videos and raunchy rap music, rising

WHAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE TAUGHT

BY GARY BAUER

suicide rates, peer pressure, an epidemic of guns and knives in schools, declining test scores — these threats have replaced parents' age-old fears of cholera and influenza. In many ways, the burden of modern parents is greater, because so many of the harms their children face are not medical, but social and moral.

In a world that seems bent on putting to rest forever the notion that there are reliable standards of right and wrong, what solid values and traditions can parents pass on to their children that will steer them safely to the shores of adulthood?

The first quality that parents must pass on is hope. Children thrive on hope, and parents who always predict failure, either for their children or for themselves, actually prescribe failure.

Parents must also instill a standard of values in their children. America is more pluralistic than it was several decades ago. Different traditions prevail in each household, reflecting the particular cultural heritage of the family. But pluralism doesn't mean it's impossible to find a values consensus. There are universal values that transcend racial, social and economic differences.

Honesty usually tops the list. It lies at the heart of public creeds, from the Boy Scout oath to the Marine Corps motto to the Presidential oath of office. Honesty means more than truth-telling; it implies ideas like fidelity, promise-keeping and civic duty.

Voting is one duty about which every parent should be faithful. Many parents I know regularly take their children with them to the polls when it's time to vote. Once you've accepted the notion that universal values like honesty do survive in this troubled world, others naturally come to mind:

Each human being is a unique creature of God. From the earliest possible moment, we've tried to teach our children this simple fact. Every-

An undersecretary of education in the Reagan administration, Gary Bauer now is president of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., and author of Our Journey Home.

WHAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE TAUGHT



IMAGE BANK

ALL OUR
CHILDREN, BLACK
AND WHITE, MUST
BE TAUGHT
TO REJECT
RACISM.

Children, especially adolescents, struggle with issues of identity and self-esteem. It's wrong to teach children a false self-esteem that leads them to believe they have done well or behaved well, when in fact they have not. True self-esteem is something more profound. I believe it has spiritual roots, in respect for the indestructible value of a person.

In the wonderful film, *Chariots of Fire*, Olympic runner Eric Liddell explains his decision to attend the games by telling his sister, "I believe that God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure." If we want our children to aim high and run fast, they must know they have a purpose, too.

Parents also must be able to communicate this self-worth effectively to their children. Many families today choose forms of recreation that are weak on communications—watching television, going to an amusement park or participating in organized sports. Surveys show that adults rarely look back and describe these events as

thing else ultimately rests upon this basic truth. I believe the knowledge that there is a loving Father who created and loves them *individually* is the key to getting children through the inevitable defeats they will encounter in life. The only way to teach this lesson is to make sure that God is part of their everyday lives.



SEVEN LESSONS For A Lifetime

THERE are values that most people, regardless of their racial, social and economic differences, can agree on. After honesty, and voting, here are the values we should teach at home:

- 1 Each human being is a unique creature of God.
- 2 The most important things in life can't be bought — or sold.
- 3 Children must be taught that choices have consequences.
- 4 Each child must learn reliable standards of right and wrong.
- 5 We must give children the character to stand against the crowd.
- 6 All of our children, black and white, must be taught to reject racism.
- 7 Our children must know the heroes, large and small, on whose shoulders they stand. —G.B.

their most satisfying memories of childhood.

One of the best ways to encourage a sense of self-worth in a child is very simple: put it in writing.

Parents generally do this when their young ones are away from home at summer camp, college or boot camp. I've often told the simple story of the homesick soldier from Mississippi who was billeted in Korea. He wrote home about how much he missed the summer storms of his boyhood. His father sent him a tape, and the young man invited his friends over for a "thunder party." Just the sounds of home, he wrote later, brought tears to their eyes and lifted "a heavy burden."

But our children should not have to go away from home to hear from us. Teaching by example may be best, but words fill a vital need. Many a parent, harried and hardworking, harbors a love that is never really said. It may seem odd to send letters to people under the same roof. But a note in a lunch box, a postcard from the office, a letter at graduation — just "I'm

proud of you, son" or "I love you, daughter" on a scrap of paper — is powerful communication.

Some parents don't know how to put their feelings into words. However, a note that says only *that* can be eloquent beyond words. It's the timing that matters — and kind words are always well-written.

The most important things in life can't be bought — or sold. Modern life is pervasively materialistic. Children, particularly, are deeply influenced by the rampant commercialism. In the inner cities, children are sometimes murdered for a pair of Reeboks or a leather jacket. In the upscale suburbs, too many parents substitute cars or cold hard cash for the time and love their children need most.

While driving recently, I spotted a sports car with a bumper sticker that read, "The One Who Dies With The Most Toys Wins." Perhaps the driver was joking, but the bumper sticker

represents an empty philosophy of life. What a contrast to the needlepoint I once saw in a kitchen that said, "It is better to live rich than to die rich."

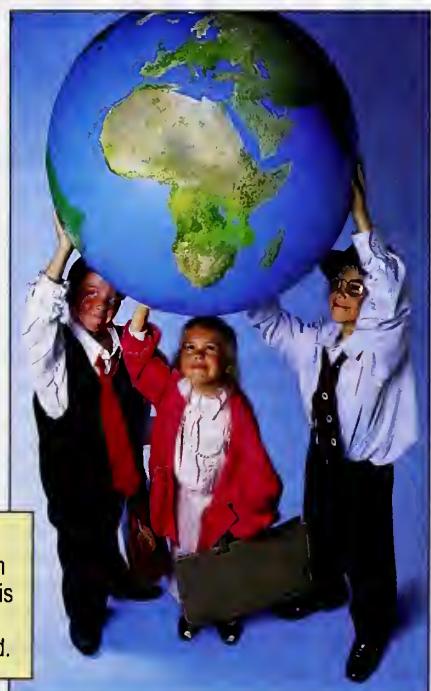
A good cure for materialism is to invest in family projects that require a lot of work but aren't meant for the marketplace. The Victory Gardens of World War II provide a model. Parents and children must have tasks they perform side by side, whether something as elaborate as building a dollhouse or as simple as checking fluids in the family car.

Children hunger to be shown that they're needed. In the agricultural societies of previous generations, this was never in doubt. In today's appliance-driven world, parents must work hard to give their children a sense of mission.

Children must be taught that choices have consequences.

Choice has become a highly esteemed American value. Public figures often talk about it as if it were an end in itself. Of course, the most important

Please turn to page 62



WORLD OF HOPE—Children must learn there is goodness and hope in the world.



RANDY BROWN/PICTURE GROUP

BOOMING—Ruth Wimmer's and Allan Ferguson's toy company began at home. Now, sales are in the millions.

MOM, POP & CO.

In kitchens, garages and spare rooms, more and more husbands and wives are creating new businesses together.

By Gordon Williams

RUTH WIMMER and Allan Ferguson had no idea they were helping to launch a trend 10 years ago when Wimmer-Ferguson Child Products was started. The Denver husband and wife simply hoped other parents would be intrigued by the distinctive black-and-white mobile they had designed to help develop vision in their newly born daughter Katharine.

Other parents were, indeed, intrigued. At first, the couple sold by mail from their Denver home. Now there's a full line of Wimmer-Ferguson child development toys sold in 1,600 stores nationwide and in five foreign countries. Sales volume has topped \$1 million for the past three years.

More and more couples today are doing as Wimmer and Ferguson did: husbands and wives going into business together. In fact, the Mom-and-Pop business is booming as never before.

Authors Patricia Aburdene and

John Naisbitt call them "collaborative couples" in their new book, *Megatrends for Women*. Aburdene and Naisbitt—their husband and wife—predict that such couples will be a major business force in the 1990s.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is well aware of the trend. The SBA says that while total new businesses rose by 70 percent during the 1980s, the number of business couples rose by 94 percent—to an estimated 2 million. Even that probably understates the trend.

Paul and Sarah Edwards, who are husband-and-wife consultants to the self-employed, find many business couples that don't even realize their enterprises fall under the umbrella of the SBA. "They think of themselves as freelancers or consultants," Paul says. "They don't realize it's a business."

Not every couple should be a busi-

Gordon Williams, who covers business for ABC News, is a frequent contributor to this magazine. His article, "Retiring Gradually," appeared in last month's issue.



CHRIS FITZGERALD PICTURE GROUP

NICE NICHE—
Claude and Donna Jeanloz's business began when they couldn't find authentic hardware for their old farmhouse.

ness couple, of course. Experts suggest asking yourself three questions before you think about launching a business with your spouse:

Do you have a product or service for which there is a market—which you love enough to put your heart and soul into?

Do you and your spouse together have enough business skills—purchasing or manufacturing, promoting and selling—to launch the venture without needing outsiders?

Is your marriage strong enough to survive the setbacks that come with any new venture, no matter how successful?

Even one "no" answer probably means that going into business with your spouse might endanger the business, your marriage or both. If you can

COUPLES starting their own companies must be strong enough to survive the setbacks that come with any business.

answer "yes" to those questions, then a modern day Mom-and-Pop venture could be just the ticket for you.

"When it works well, there's a real connection from going into business with someone who is your life partner," says Caroline Hull, adviser to home-based businesses and publisher of the newsletter, *ConneXions*. "That partnership can help you get through the rough times that might sink another business."

Of course couples have always gone into business together. But the traditional Mom-and-Pop business usually was a retail store or an eating place, or maybe a service business with the husband out calling on customers and the wife at home handling

the phones and the bills. Often it was a family business—passed from father to son, with the son's wife brought in to help out.

Millions of traditional Mom-and-Pop businesses exist today—with more being started every day. Yet many of the Mom-and-Pop businesses of the '90s are different from anything seen before. "Mom-and-Pop has moved into a new arena," says Caroline Hull.

One feature of business couples today is that husband and wife play equal roles, instead of the husband running the venture and the wife serving as assistant. "Often today, the woman starts the business and then turns to her husband," says Dr. Geoffrey Kessler, president of the Kessler Exchange, a research and advisory organization for small business.

That's how it worked for Wimmer and Ferguson. Wimmer started the business, while Ferguson kept working as a librarian and part-time band-leader. Only later did he move from unpaid consultant to full-time partici-

Please turn to page 68



PARENTAL CONCERN—John Jenkins, with his daughter Noreen and son John IV, leads the legal battle for school choice.

THE FIGHT OVER SCHOOL CHOICE

By Gurney Williams III

ON THE night before Christmas in 1990, John Jenkins and his 8-year-old daughter, Noreen, were horrified at the view below their 13-story apartment on Chicago's west side. Blood-red flames were rolling out of the western walls of Grant Elementary School across the street.

A frequent contributor to this magazine, Gurney Williams III wrote "Virtual Reality" in the February issue.

THE FUTURE OF
AMERICAN
EDUCATION WILL
BE DETERMINED
BY HOW WE
ANSWER THIS
MULTIPLE-CHOICE
PROBLEM.

"Oh my God," Noreen said. "Dad, I don't want to go back there."

At that moment, Jenkins' hopes for getting Noreen a good education in his neighborhood public school went up in smoke. The fire at Grant, started by vandals after they had stolen some typewriters, would eventually propel Jenkins, a filmmaker and actor, into a role he never expected to play.

It began with a decision to withdraw his daughter from Grant and enroll her in another school. Today, he's become the lead plaintiff in a court fight involving 150 low-income children and their parents in Chicago and Los Angeles. Their goal is to win the power to send their children to the private school of their choice — with taxpayer support.



SATISFIED—Education expert Joe Nathan, above with daughter Laura, believes Minnesota's school choice programs promote quality.



SENSIBLE—Diana R. Swanson, a St. Paul, Minn., school principal, says "It only makes sense" to offer choice.

The issue of school choice is one of the hottest debates concerning the future of American education. At least 36 state legislatures in recent years have adopted choice plans, according to Patricia Farnan, former director of education and empowerment policy at

the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C. Like an unruly schoolroom, the country today echoes with argument almost as passionate as the battles over desegregation in the 1950s and '60s.

Even when the debate is stripped of emotion, the school choice issue is complicated by the existence of three main options to choose from:

Districtwide plans allow choice

WEALTHY parents have always had the option of private education, from nursery school to college.

within a school district, often involving "magnet" schools designed to attract students to facilities that match individual interests. The best-known recently established plans operate in Cambridge, Mass.; Montclair, N.J.; East Harlem, New York City; and Milwaukee, Wis.

Statewide plans let students apply to schools outside of their home districts. Within the past five years, full or partial statewide choice has become avail-



AP/WIDE WORLD

PRESIDENTIAL PARENTING—President Clinton opposes voucher plans, but favors public school choice. He sends daughter Chelsea to a private school.

able in Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Utah. Farnan said more limited plans also are available in Washington State and Colorado.

Private or voucher plans involve giving vouchers worth part or all of tuition costs to parents who send their children to private or public schools of their choice. Currently the only ones operating with public funds are in Milwaukee and Vermont.

Former President George Bush supported what he called the "GI Bill for Children," and proposed giving \$1,000 vouchers for public or private schools to hundreds of thousands of low-income families.

President Bill Clinton opposes the voucher idea, but favors parental choice of public schools.

John Jenkins today also is a firm believer in the voucher system. But

SOME choice plans may drain money from already struggling public school districts.

.....

that night three years ago, his main concern was doing something to relieve his daughter's fear.

He could understand why she was scared. The buildings around Grant contained an arsenal. "The weapons on the street now are much more sophisticated and probably more reliable than the M-16," says Jenkins, who served in Vietnam in 1968-69.

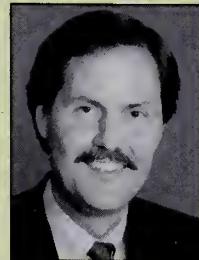
"And in my community, in the average public school, you can get any drug. You can get anything, but a quality education."

Within three weeks of the fire, he withdrew Noreen and his son, John IV, from Grant. And using a friend's address, he enrolled them in a north-side school. Months later, a truant officer making a routine check discovered the ruse. The school threatened to send Noreen and John back to Grant. In a dramatic showdown with the principal, Jenkins threatened to chain himself to the door unless the two children could stay.

The principal relented. But the threat to his children's well-being continued to worry Jenkins. Last summer, he filed a legal suit with the *pro bono* help of the Institute for Justice, a non-profit public-interest law center in Washington, D.C.

Jenkins says he knows the suit could drag on for years. "Someone told me nothing would happen until hell freezes over. I said, 'We've all bought ice

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By
**William H.
Mellor III**

Competition will improve the quality of America's schools.

YES

IMAGINE, for a moment, that Uncle Sam never created the GI Bill program that helped educate millions of

American servicemen and women by letting them choose the college, university or technical school that best served their needs.

Instead, imagine that government bureaucrats assigned GIs to the *public* college closest to their home with little concern over whether the school would effectively educate them or offer a safe environment. Unless GIs had enough money to choose a private school, they would be consigned to a noncompetitive, government-run facility.

They would be powerless to select a good school in return for their tax dollars.

As far-fetched as it sounds, this is exactly what is going on today in America's public elementary and secondary schools. Bureaucrats, not parents, choose the schools low- and middle-income children will attend. School vouchers, like the GI Bill, would change that.

Under a voucher plan, parents are awarded a portion of the tax dollars spent on a child's education to be applied to the public, private or parochial school of their choice. The remaining funds would stay in the public school system. Parents

William H. Mellor III is president of the Institute for Justice, a non-profit legal foundation in Washington, D.C.

WILL SCHOOL CHOICE WORK?

would then have the power to hold schools accountable for failing to educate by removing their children and spending the voucher at a school that responds to their needs. Effective and safe schools attract students. Those that are not, lose students and the dollars they bring.

In most urban areas, \$1 out of every \$2 spent on public education never reaches the classroom. Instead, it is spent on bloated administration with dismal results. Chicago's public schools, for instance, enroll three times as many students as Chicago's Catholic schools, yet the public schools employ 100 times as many bureaucrats.

Meanwhile, 38 of Chicago's 64 high schools rank in the bottom 1 percent on national test scores. As shocking as this is, in some aspects it typifies public school systems in large cities across America.

Community-based private schools, such as Holy Angels in Chicago and Marcus Garvey School in Los Angeles, are proving that children who are failing or incorrigible when attending unresponsive public schools can become well-educated if they are placed in an environment where parents participate in their education and where strict disciplinary codes are enforced.

Although some private schools are very expensive, numerous others demonstrate students can be well educated for less than \$3,000 annually, even in a hostile urban neighborhood.

Vouchers would also lead to more and varied schools from which to choose. As more money becomes available to private schools as a result of vouchers, more community-based schools would open. Just as funds

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By
**Lewis W.
Finch**

School choice does not guarantee a good education.

NO

ALLOWING parents and students to select their choice of schools seems as American as apple pie and Grandma's house at Christmas. Unfortunately, most school choice plans are like snake oil. They play on the great American passion for quick, cheap remedies to complex ailments.

Advocates of school choice claim it will improve the quality of education by allowing parents and students to choose good schools, but experience in many school districts suggest quality of education has little, if any, bearing on the school a parent or student chooses.

It is geographic location — especially location of daycare providers — and parental convenience that most

Lewis W. Finch, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators, is superintendent of Colorado's Jefferson County Public Schools, the state's largest school district.

often determine school selection. Other families select schools that offer good athletic programs.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of school choice is the idea of providing parents with vouchers that allow them to send their children to private schools.

Advocates of school choice and the voucher system are perpetuating three great myths about schools.

Great Myth 1. Vouchers will ensure that all American parents can choose excellent schools for their children.

Implying that everyone with a voucher can exercise education choice is a cruel hoax. You don't choose a private school; the private school chooses you. Can anyone honestly doubt that the parents already sending their children to private schools will be the first in line for vouchers and the first "chosen" by private schools?

The cost merely to provide vouchers to those currently attending private schools is staggering. Where will the money come from to pay for this privilege? You and I know where. It will be diverted from the public schools of those not chosen.

In November 1992, Colorado voters overwhelmingly rejected a school voucher plan that would have transferred thousands of dollars from pub-

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GETTING THERE—Unless millions are spent on busing, some children won't go to their schools of choice.



THE STOCK MARKET

THE ECO-CRISIS MYTH

From acid rain to global warming, the alarmists have been resorting to scare tactics. What we need is the truth, says this environmental expert.

FOR years, self-appointed prophets and cult leaders have grimly warned of the coming doomsday because we are ignoring the environment. Today, scarcely a day passes without a headline trumpeting yet another environmental scare — from acid rain to global warming. All this is frightening, but not true, says environmental writer Ronald Bailey, author of *EcoScam: The False Prophets of Ecological Apocalypse*.

"The air and water are *much* cleaner than they were a quarter-century ago. There is no crisis, no disasters are lurking. We are victims of environmental alarmists," says Bailey who has been a writer for *Forbes* and a producer of PBS's weekly *TechnoPolitics* program.

In this interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, Bailey, now a fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., hopes to clear the air about our environment.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: How deep is our environmental concern?

RON BAILEY: A *New York Times* poll found that 74 percent of respondents say that protecting the environment is so important that standards cannot be too high, and continuing environmental improvement must be made regardless of cost.

That statistic is amazing in a country where in the last 25 years, the environment has improved vastly. There is significantly less air and water pollution than there was a quarter-century ago. There is no crisis, no disasters are lurking.

Of course there are areas that need work — and they're getting it. We are living in a safer, better world yet people feel endangered. Why? They've been stampeded into fear by ecological alarmists who tell us that the crisis is so severe, we *must* act immediately or life as we know it may promptly end. The trouble is, those warnings sometimes

impel us to take expensive actions that, in hindsight, are seen to be unnecessary.

Q. For instance?

A. Ecological alarmists are very skilled at manufacturing "crises" that prompt congressional response.

Take acid rain. Over a period of 10 years we spent \$540 million and sent scientific teams crisscrossing the United States to see if acid rain was a problem. The teams' report said there was virtually no problem at all — no harm to lakes, streams, crops, fish, people. Acid rain amounts to a nuisance, definitely not a crisis.

That report was issued shortly before Congress voted on the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments — where it enacted anti-acid rain measures to remove sulfur dioxide from coal-fired plants.

The cost? Some \$4 billion to \$5 billion annually. The ecological benefit? Virtually none. That money could have been left in taxpayers' pockets or spent on our real problems. Instead this money will be wasted because Congress reacted to essentially groundless hysteria.

But the Clean Air Act is only one example. Many major environmental laws — the Super Fund, the Endangered Species Act — will soon be up for renewal. If Congress persists in responding to created "crises," the legislative cost to us will be billions of dollars and, in every case, will produce almost no benefits.

Q. What you are saying is so contrary to what we hear on a regular basis. Why should we believe you?

A. What I say is rooted in scientific research. The opinions I present aren't mine so much as they are those of the scores of scientists I interviewed and the many hundreds of journal articles I have studied. What I'm doing is reporting the results.

Still, your question is a good one. It makes no sense, but many people don't like to be told that the world is *not* coming to an end. That's why *EcoScam* includes over 40 pages



of notes, many referencing technical documents. I knew the book's thesis would be so controversial I had to be able to show where I got all my facts. I also knew the ecological alarmists would pounce on any errors, so we made very sure the book is technically sound.

Don't take my word for this. If you don't believe me, take the end-notes, go to a library, and start looking up the studies. You'll be amazed at what you read and it will be very different from what the alarmists tell us.

Q. Who are these "ecological alarmists"?

A. There are 450 national environmental organizations, many of which have household names such as Audubon, Worldwatch and Greenpeace. And many are powerful groups, with millions of members, most of whom are absolutely unaware how radical and well-funded the headquarters staffs are. The top 10 alone raised over \$400 million in 1990. That buys a lot of influence in Washington, D.C.

Q. But surely there are some legitimate crises. For instance, hasn't world population increased to the point where starvation looms?

A. That is a long-standing myth. In '68, Paul Ehrlich said in his best-selling book, *The Population Bomb*, that hundreds of millions of people would soon starve to death. It didn't happen. In '70, Ehrlich upped the ante, saying four billion people could starve to death between 1980 and '89. That didn't happen, either.

Please turn page

HIGHLIGHTS

Ronald Bailey On...

The environment: "Don't believe the alarmists. There is less air and water pollution than there was a quarter century ago. There is no crisis, no disasters are lurking."

The Media: "Too much environmental reporting is biased."

The Green agenda: "A great many Green leaders are alienated from today's technical, capitalist society and would like to smash it."

Environmental scientists: "They know the way to win attention is to raise an alarm — even when the facts don't warrant."

Global warming: "There is no upward trend in the globe's temperature. Global warming is another myth."

Now he's saying it will occur in the early years of the next century. Will it? One reason why alarmists thrive is that the public has no long-term memory. No attention is paid to their many past, false predictions.

Q. What actually has happened?

A. Since World War II, the world's population has more than doubled — but the world's food supply has more than tripled. Life expectancy has gone up from 42.7 years to 64.7, *worldwide*. In countries where per capita income is below \$400 annually, life expectancy has gone from 35 years to over 60. Where we do see famine, it's essentially confined to Africa, in countries where there are civil wars. Starvation sometimes is used as a political weapon, but people are *not* starving because there's no food. There's plenty of food.

Q. How can the facts be so different from the doomsday predictions?

A. Alarmists win by saying the same thing over and over until it becomes conventional wisdom. In many cases, there's even a scientific study or two to support their claims.

Q. So scientists, too, are creating fake fears?

A. There is an iron triangle of interest groups who need crises to win supporters, a press that needs them to sell newspapers and air time, and scientists who need them to gain funding for their research.

Many leading environmental scientists are in fact politicians, not scientists. They rush out results before normal confirmation has occurred in order to make headlines. They well know that in today's cynical America, science alone retains substantial credibility with people.

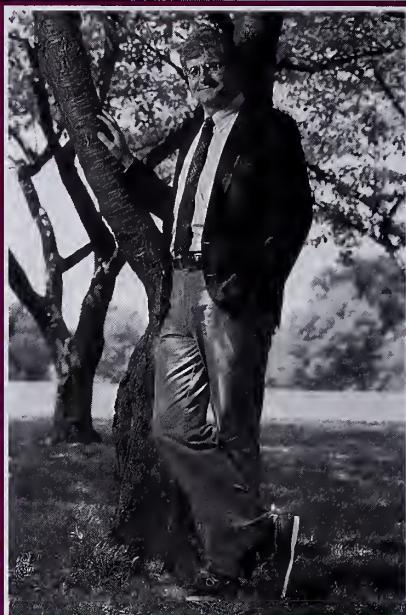
Unfortunately, all these fake environmental crises are undermining the public's trust in science.

Q. Alarmists also warn that we are running out of crucial non-renewable resources — petroleum, copper, etc. Is that true?

A. In 1972, The Club of Rome's *The Limits To Growth* said the world would run out of gold by '81, mercury by '85, petroleum by '92, and copper and natural gas by '93. None of that has happened.

Of course the myth of resource

THE ECO-CRISIS MYTH



weeks in the summer. That was announced in '85. Worries started years earlier, however. In '78, Congress, as a precautionary measure, banned the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as propellants in aerosol sprays. Yet you still see media claims that spraying aerosols will destroy the ozone layer — which has been flatly untrue for 15 years.

Still, we do have a hole, and the consensus among atmospheric scientists is that it's caused by freon molecules that collect in the winter over Antarctica. And when the sun returns in the spring, the ozone is destroyed temporarily.

So, what does that mean? Alarmists say it means the collapse of the Antarctic ecosystem. But that has not been the case. The plant life there seems well-adapted; many naturally produce a pigment that screens out UV. There is no crisis, no cause for panic.

Even so, many government officials tell us there are blind sheep in Chile because of the ozone hole. No one has ever found blind sheep due to the ozone hole. No one has ever found any danger.

Q. Let's examine one last environmental "crisis." Is the globe getting warmer and will the polar ice caps melt?

A. The "global warming" hysteria started at a Senate hearing in '88.

It was a hot day and one scientist testified that he was virtually certain he had detected a global warming trend, due to carbon dioxide emissions which trap infrared energy in the atmosphere instead of letting it radiate into space. That claim became headline news everywhere.

Some other scientists agreed, based on computer models of future weather. Sophisticated as the models are, however, we know they don't accurately reflect the globe's weather because they can't tell us the weather we've had.

A Gallup poll a few years ago found that 53 percent of scientists involved in climate research indicated they didn't think global warming has occurred. Just 17 percent said it had occurred. There is no upward trend in the globe's temperature. For the past 14 years it has been essentially stable. Global warming is another myth.

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Reflections

by Lee Teter



DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

The Vietnam Veterans of America present the inspirational art print "Reflections" by Lee Teter which gives visual definition to the purpose and meaning that "The Wall" has for Americans — not just a list of faceless names, but a place to visit and remember people we love, who fought for each other and America.

This Open Edition art print with an image size of 26" x 19", is printed in permanent inks on

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Chapter 172

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VA WANTS TO TREAT GULF ILLNESSES . . .

GULF WAR veterans suffering from mysterious illnesses may soon be able to receive VA medical treatment, if VA Secretary Jesse Brown has his way. He has asked Congress for legislation giving him authority to go ahead and treat these veterans, even though their ailments are not yet recognized as service-connected.

But Doc Doubts GI Claims

VA efforts to expand its care to include Gulf War Illnesses (see story above) may have been blindsided by one of its senior physicians: Dr. Edward Young, chief of staff and head of the special referral center for Gulf War veterans at the Houston VA Medical Center (VAMC).

The *Birmingham News* in Alabama reported that Young said some Desert Storm veterans were making up health complaints to get federal compensation. The *News* quoted Young as saying, "There's been mass hallucinations. There's been mass PTSD and all these kind of things. And there are also some people who would like to have compensation." The newspaper sent transcripts of the interview to The American Legion and to Illinois Rep. Lane Evans.

Young also took potshots at National Guardsmen and Reservists who served in the Gulf War. Questioning their health complaints, he was quoted as saying, "We have people who signed up because they were glad to take a paycheck for showing up at Scout camp every week or once a year, but when they actually had to pull up and lose their jobs, be separated from their families, and sent over there and subjected to all this. . . . You think they're not angry? I think their anger may have a role in this in some instances."

After a VA investigation, Young was removed from the blue-ribbon panel appointed by Congress to study Gulf War illnesses, and relieved as head of the Gulf War illness referral center. He remains chief of staff at the Houston VAMC.

Brown is seeking authority similar to that granted victims of Agent Orange in 1981, when VA was permitted to treat Vietnam veterans who might have been exposed to ionizing radiation or Agent Orange. Eventually, several diseases and forms of cancer were accepted as service-connected disabilities linked to radiation and Agent Orange.

The VA Secretary, who has

repeatedly stated he does not want Desert Storm illnesses to "turn into another Agent Orange," says that allowing VA to begin treating Gulf War veterans makes good sense financially. "It is prudent for VA to provide care and treatment for disabilities possibly related to exposure to contaminants before those disorders become more disabling than they are now," he says.

get an application from their local VA office or by calling (800) 827-1000.

Jobs For Veterans

Veterans discharged from active duty after Aug. 1, 1990, whose military occupations do not readily match civilian jobs may find it easier to get work, as a result of a new federal training program.

Under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA), the government will pay employers up to \$10,000 in wage reimbursements for hiring and training veterans with a goal of long-term employment.

Employers willing to train disabled veterans may receive up to \$12,000 in wage reimbursements.

To be eligible, veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty, unless they were discharged earlier due to service-connected disability. Veterans discharged after that date with a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more are automatically eligible. Recently discharged veterans who have been unemployed for at least eight of the last 15 weeks are also eligible.

The program is run by the departments of Labor, Defense (DoD) and VA. DoD will determine what military occupations do or do not correspond with civilian jobs. VA is supplying educational, vocational and readjustment counseling for eligible veterans.

Employers interested in the SMOCTA program should contact their nearest job center for details. Veterans should call their nearest job service, or VA at (800) 827-1000. □

WWI Anniversary Medal



WWI veterans are eligible for a 75th anniversary commemorative medal, sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. The medal is available free through VA.

To receive the medal, veterans can

CANADA AT ITS BEST



Now and then, a fine spirit can evoke the very essence of the land that produced it. So it is with Canadian Mist, America's number one Canadian. Pleasingly mellow. Yet clean, honest, and true.

Like Canada itself. When it's at its best.

LIGHT,
SMOOTH,
MELLOW



CALIFORNIA'S BRUCE THIESEN

ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL COMMANDER Bruce Thiesen, 52, of Post 191 in Kingsburg, Calif., is truly a man in motion — virtually *perpetual* motion — working, traveling and fighting for veterans and their families. For 27 years, this Army veteran has been waging these battles as a leader in The American Legion.

A tough California farmer, Thiesen brings to the helm of the Legion an impressive combination of qualities: credentials, character and charisma.

Credentials. After being elected National Commander at the 75th American Legion National Convention in Pittsburgh, Thiesen became the fourth Vietnam-era veteran to hold this post. He was drafted in 1964 and served with the 30th Artillery and the 4th Infantry Division.

Honorably discharged as a Specialist E-4 in 1966, Thiesen joined The American Legion that year and began his rise to leadership in the nation's largest veterans' organization. In fact, his dedication to the Legion earned him important positions at the Post, District, Department and national levels. For example, Thiesen was the first Vietnam-era veteran to be elected Department of California Commander (1980-81).

In the nearly three decades preceding his election to National Commander, Thiesen served the Legion in the following other top slots:

Commander, Post 191, Kingsburg, Calif. (1969-70); Commander, California's 14th District (1974-75); National Executive Committeemen (1988-90); Chairman, Membership and Post Activities Committee (1991); and Chairman, Economic Commission (1985-88).

Character. "I have always been impressed by Bruce Thiesen," says The Rev. Bob Atkins of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Kingsburg, Calif. "He cares for his family and for his neighbors. He always tries to do what is right before God, as well as before people."

Thiesen, a modest family man who would much rather talk about the Legion than about himself, says that his best quality is being a good listener.

"I think people are important," Thiesen says. "As

National Commander, I want to travel as much as possible and meet as many Legionnaires as I can. I learn things from talking with them and listening to their stories.

"After all, when you talk about the Legion getting something done, it's the blue-cappers who come through for America. I know that individual Legionnaires, who help out others right in their own communities, make our organization function."

To Thiesen, leadership is all about being approachable — about walking into a small office or a large auditorium and communicating a willingness to listen. "I'm comfortable talking with people over coffee, at Post meetings or at a convention. I really enjoy it," Thiesen says.

Thiesen's pastor, The Rev. Atkins, appreciates his ability to listen and his commitment to family.

"One of the things that impressed me about Bruce is that he sought my counsel and the counsel of his family before running for the office of National Commander," The Rev. Atkins says. "He wanted to do what was right for his family, and I think that's the sign of a good person."

Charisma. Like the crackle of an AM radio during an electrical storm, one can feel a presence when Bruce Thiesen enters the room. It doesn't seem to matter how large the crowd is — whether its 500 people or 5,000 people — Thiesen makes the audience feel as though they were in his living room.

"I'm a farmer, not a politician," Thiesen explains. "I used to run a family farm and a trucking company, and I'm used to talking with people in plain English."

"I don't change my approach to people because I am an elected leader. Leadership is about respect, and I hope to earn respect by respecting other people and their ideas."

Thiesen makes it a habit to draw upon other people's ideas, and therein lies his special charisma.

* * *

Just a look at Bruce Thiesen's Legion accomplishments makes it difficult to believe that he has time for anything other than The American Legion. But when he's not work-

**"AS VETERANS, WE
CAN APPRECIATE THE
AMERICA WE HELPED
BUILD BECAUSE WE
FOUGHT AGAINST
THOSE WHO WANTED
TO TEAR IT DOWN."**



ing for veterans, he's supervising a grape farm and taking care of his family.

Thiesen works six 12-hour days per week as a field supervisor at Gary Pitts Farms Inc., a vineyard in Fowler, Calif., which produces about 500,000 crates of grapes per year.

With the long hours of his job and Legion commitments, Thiesen finds himself faced with a difficult juggling act.

"It's never been easy to balance my Legion commitments with my job and my family," Thiesen says. "But I couldn't do my job and my Legion work if it wasn't for my wife and children. They make everything function."

Thiesen's wife, Graetian, an American Legion Auxiliary member since birth, has served as President of Kingsburg Unit 191. The Thiesens have three children: daughters Dianne and Sheryl — both members of Auxiliary Unit 191 — and one son, Kevin, a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 147. "My family is always first in my mind when I make a decision," Thiesen says. "As a family, we decided that I should run for National Commander. And as a family, we will work to make sure that I remain a good husband, a good father and a leader that every Legionnaire can be proud of."

* * *

75 Years: A Championship Season.

As former President Ronald Reagan once said before Legionnaires at an American Legion National Convention, "The American Legion has set high standards for itself and for our country...and as long as America lives up to your standards, America will not go wrong."

National Commander Thiesen, as he leads the Legion in its 75th year, intends to maintain the Legion's position as the setter of standards for America. To guide Legionnaires in this pursuit, he plans to make this year a championship season — the beginning of a renewed Legion effort to keep America strong, and to keep the memory of war and the sacrifice it demands alive.

In a face-to-face interview, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine asked Thiesen what he plans to do as leader of the nation's largest veterans' organization.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: How will the Legion maintain its status as the standard setter for America?

A. The American Legion will always be one of the yardsticks by which American standards can be measured because its members have a stake in everything they fight for. When people see Legionnaires assisting victims of natural disasters or fighting in war, they realize that these are people who offer more than words when help is needed.



By backing up our beliefs with the willingness to fight for them, we have established a respected voice in our country. The American Legion is unique in that it has 3.1 million spokesmen — and every one of them has served this country when called upon. As veterans, we can appreciate the America we helped build because we fought against those who wanted to tear it down.

People listen to us because of this courage.

Q. What, for example, has the Legion done for America and its veterans?

A. Without question, the Legion helped to create a new generation of educated Americans and expanded the middle class by drafting the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944. The "GI Bill" was one of our greatest achievements. It helped to dramatically improve the standard of living throughout America.

But over the past 75 years, our successes also include: helping to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); helping veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by assisting the VA with counseling centers called Vet Centers; providing help to families of POW/MIAs; defeating a proposal to tax veterans' benefits; and most recently helping establish a job training and placement program for veterans. The Legion also is at the forefront of health-care reform, trying to protect VA. The list goes on and on.

What makes the Legion such an important voice is that it has been—and continues to be—consistent. For veterans' benefits, national security and devotion to God and Country, Americans can always count on The American Legion.

Q. A lot of the voices on Capitol Hill are those of foreign lobbyists who aren't always acting in the interest of our country. What do you think we can do to prevent them from having so much influence?

A. As National Commander, I will make sure the Legion continues to work for more stringent rules to monitor lobbyists representing foreign governments.

The good news is that we've already made some progress on regulating lobbyists both foreign and domestic. The Senate passed a bill this year that incorporates a number of Legion recommendations.

Senate bill S.349 would place more controls on lobbyists by requiring them to register with the U.S. government and file reports every six months, disclosing their activities. The House is expected to introduce a similar bill.

Our ground-breaking 1991 report on foreign lobbyists, *Assessing the Relative Influence of Foreign and U.S. Lobbyists*, called on the government to require complete and



SOLDIER—Thiesen served in the 30th Artillery and 4th Infantry Division during the Vietnam era.



FAMILY MAN—From left, daughter Sheryl, son Kevin, son-in-law Kirk, daughter Dianne, wife Graetian and Thiesen.

accurate disclosure of foreign lobbyists' activities and restrict the post-employment activities of former high government officials.

The latter issue still needs to be addressed but the Senate has taken a step in the right direction.

Q. While the problem of lobbyists can be handled from the ground, what about the threat of ballistic missile attack by a third world power? How can we best answer that threat?

A. The Strategic Defense Initiative — the 10-year effort to develop a space-based defensive shield against ballistic missiles — has undergone some changes since the end of the Cold War.

First, the name of its supporting agency was changed from the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO). The change in name signaled another more sweeping change: a shift from space-based defenses to surface-based defenses.

The Pentagon is now pursuing technologies which could successfully destroy enemy missiles in the boost phase, before they leave the atmosphere. The Defense Department views this approach as the best way to limit third world threats.

The Legion's experts suggest that we should not abandon the idea of space-based missile defenses. I suspect it will be tough to sell this idea to a downsizing Pentagon that sees no immediate threats. But I don't want us to give up on this. And we won't.

Q. But with the ever-existing need to buy weapons and all the budget cuts, how do we ensure that Congress doesn't forget the men and women who fought our nation's wars? How do we ensure that VA hospital care will still be there for them?

A. Fortunately, the Clinton administration seems determined to keep VA hospitals available for veterans — even in the context of a national health-care system. But money is tight.

Congress will never forget about the medical needs of veterans because we will not let them.

The big problem is the competition that VA faces in the budget process. VA, the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) all feed from the same pool of money.

America must treat all of its veterans in fully funded VA facilities first. Then, and only then, can NASA start talking about a \$30-billion space station.

Q. In our most recent major conflict, the Gulf War, many U.S. troops came home with mysterious illnesses. How can VA help these veterans?

A. VA Secretary Jesse Brown's recommendation that Gulf War veterans with mysterious illnesses be treated in VA hospitals is a good first step. Brown has asked Congress for legislation giving him authority to go ahead and treat these veterans, even though their ailments are not yet recognized as service-connected.

First, we've got to make VA treatment available to Gulf War veterans with mysterious illnesses. Then, we need to research what diseases or ailments they have, and find a way to cure them.

Please turn to page 58

BOYS NATION MEETS THE PRESIDENT



HANDSHAKE TO HISTORY—President Clinton and National Commander Munson watch Arkansas Boys Nation delegates Traftin E. Thompson and James W. Welch unveil a 1963 photo of Clinton at Boys Nation shaking hands with John F. Kennedy.

THIS YEAR'S 96 delegates to The American Legion Boys Nation had a historic meeting with a famous Boys Nation alumnus, none other than President Bill Clinton himself.

In the sunny White House Rose Garden—the setting for many important gatherings of world leaders—the President chatted with the Boys Nation participants and recalled his now famous handshake with President John F. Kennedy 30 years ago, when Clinton was a 1963 Arkansas Boys Nation delegate.

Clinton, who often has credited Boys State and Boys Nation with piquing his interest in public office, invited his 1963 fellow delegates to a 30th reunion during this year's Boys Nation.

Among the 54 who accepted the President's invitation were Rep. Jim Ramstad of Minnesota; the Rev. Fred Kammer, the national head of Catholic Charities; and O.L. "Pete" Johnson, Presiding Judge of District Court Criminal Division of the 10th Judicial Circuit of

Alabama. Johnson, a Legionnaire, has been president of Alabama Boys State for 10 years.

"You've become Boys Nations' first national ambassador of goodwill," National Commander Roger A. Munson told Clinton in his speech outside the White House.

Each year since 1946, the Legion has been sending two high school seniors

from most states to Washington, D.C., to gain a deeper understanding of democratic government. During Boys Nation this year, delegates visited the Capitol Building, the Smithsonian, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other historic sites in the area.

At the host site, Marymount University in Arlington, Va., the delegates addressed issues such as a

balanced budget amendment, flag burning, health-care reform, and the deficit during the eight-day session.

"I had high hopes for Boys Nation, but it far exceeded my expectations," said 17-year-old George Guszcza of Oneonta, N.Y. Guszcza was appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the Boys Nation president, Daryl Collins.

Among the elected officers who received scholarships were President Collins and Vice President Chris J. Befort of La Crosse, Kan., who each received \$1,500 from Educational Communications Inc.; Secretary Mehul Patel of Manasquan, N.J., who received \$500 from the Sons of The American Legion; and Senate President Pro Tem J. Nick Geimer of New Haven, Ind., who received \$500 from the Boys State Memorial Scholarship Fund. □

Texas Teen Elected President

DARYL Collins, the 1993 president of Boys Nation says the experience has molded him into a better citizen.

"Before Boys State or Boys Nation, I didn't have as broad an understanding of how government works," said Collins, 17, who was sponsored by Post 658 of Crosby, Texas. "Now I understand how the issues, bills, debates and elections are intertwined."

Collins, a senior at Klein High School in Spring, Texas, said the Boys State and Boys Nation programs have given America a new crop of leaders.

"People talk about 'generation X' being lost, but after going through Boys State and Boys Nation, I know there are future leaders out there," he said. "I'm confident we have a representation of ideas from across the country."

Winning the governorship at Texas Boys State in June was special to Collins for another reason. "My uncle was the first black Boys State governor in Texas in 1969," he said. □



DARYL COLLINS
Boys Nation President

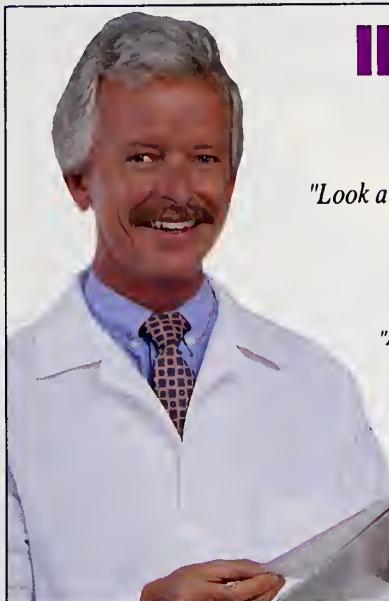
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Over the years, many over-the-counter tooth whitening treatments have become available to the public, making more and more people aware of embarrassing stains on their teeth. Stains absorbed through the tiny pores in your tooth's surface and caused by everyday foods, coffee, tea and tobacco as well as the natural wear and maturing of your tooth's surface. And, *in all my 15+ years as a dentist, lecturer and consultant to such programs as "ABC News", "20/20" and "Good Morning America", I have never found a home tooth whitening procedure that gave the same spectacular results as a professional treatment without being potentially harmful to your teeth.* That's why I've developed Dr. George's Dental White™ Professional Tooth Whitening System, especially for you!

Tooth Whitening Problems!

Did you ever notice that most movie stars have almost perfect teeth? Well, most of them have gone through costly professional procedures to get those great smiles. Procedures like bonding or porcelain veneers which can cost up to \$200 a tooth for bonding and up to \$900 a tooth for veneers! Who can afford that?! Not many - so more and more people, like you, are willing to try home whitening treatments that may not only disappoint you but can damage your teeth. Did you know that most tooth whitening toothpastes make virtually NO difference in the whiteness of your teeth, if any at all. Most importantly, most contain abrasive ingredients which can damage your tooth's enamel. Did you also know that most 3 step whitening kits require messy applications and an initial rinse which usually contains ACIDIC FLUIDS! Plus the whitening gels and rinses in those 3 step kits tend to drip right off your teeth because no applicator is supplied to keep whitening fluids concentrated on your



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*"Look at the difference that Dental White™ makes!
Top teeth treated with Dental White™ -
bottom teeth were left untreated."*

-Dr. George Madray
Dentist, lecturer and consultant to:
"ABC News", "20/20" & "Good Morning America."



teeth, giving you little or no improvement in the whiteness of your teeth!

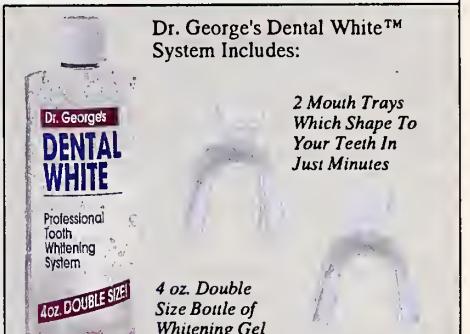
With Dental White™, YOU Can Have Beautifully White Teeth!

Now you can have beautiful teeth, like the stars, without paying a fortune or damaging your teeth. My *safe yet powerful* formula uses an ingredient known as Carbamide Peroxide which is the exact ingredient that dentists have used, for years, to whiten and brighten patients' teeth without any danger of stripping tooth enamel or harming the tooth.

If It's The Same Treatment Used By Dentists, Then The Procedure Must Be Complicated??!

Absolutely NOT! When you use Dental White™, the procedure is clean, simple and the results are dazzling! No messy applications - just fill the supplied mouth trays with the minty fresh Dental White™ whitening gel and place it over your teeth, every night, for 2-3 weeks. The active ingredients then diffuse into your tooth's pores to produce active oxygen which in turn lightens the color of your teeth. That's it. (You can even whiten your teeth while you watch TV!) Now, without ever entering a dentist's office or paying exorbitant prices, **YOU COULD SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST 1 WEEK!**

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YOU MUST RESPOND BEFORE NOV. 10TH!
YES! Please rush me the following Dr. George's Dental White™ System(s).

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- Amex Discover Diners Carte Blanche

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LEGIONNAIRES RUSH TO AID FLOOD VICTIMS

EVEN BEFORE the rivers had crested, a gathering tide of Legion help swept across the Midwest to aid victims of the flood that has killed 45, caused \$10 billion in damage and displaced thousands of Americans.

Answering the needs of the flood victims are Legionnaires from Posts and Departments all over the nation. Just one of them is Richard Hammond of Post 51, Oakland, Maine, who has shipped an ice-making machine, electric generators, shovels, brooms and cleaning supplies, blankets, and 1,000 cases of paper plates and cups to the Midwest. The supplies were donated by Oakland businesses and Legion Posts throughout Maine and sent to Post 312, St. Charles, Mo., for distribution.

"There are many, many Legionnaires who care about our neighbors," said Hammond, who also hauled relief supplies to victims of

Hurricane Andrew in 1991.

Hammond's involvement in relief efforts began when his granddaughters said they wanted to give their Christmas gifts to children in Homestead, Fla., after Hurricane Andrew struck. When he saw the devastation of the hurricane, Hammond stayed on to help out.

Post 32, working with other Posts in the Exeter, N.H. area, also sent two 26-foot trucks of relief supplies to St. Charles, Mo. "Post members were watching the news coverage of the flood and decided to do something to help," said Post 32 Commander Harry Fountas.

The Departments of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri have established relief funds and individual Legionnaires are volunteering their time and muscle to help out. "Legionnaires were out hauling and filling sandbags to save the water treatment plant in Des Moines," said James E. Demarest, Department of Iowa Adjutant.

"Many people haven't

been back in their homes, so we have no idea how extensive the damage is," said Department of Missouri Adjutant Carey Bankhead.

On a national level, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) had, at press time, made more than 150 grants to flood victims who are members of the Legion family. More grants are expected, as the waters recede and the damage is assessed. Families of veterans who are not Legionnaires have been receiving help through the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program.

Your Post can help a Post affected by the flood by forming a Post Partnership. Call National Headquarters for more information (see box).

Monetary donations to the NEF for flood relief can be sent to:

**The National Emergency Fund,
The American Legion,
P.O. Box 6141,
Indianapolis, IN 46206. □**

Flooded Posts

TO BECOME a Post Partner and provide some needed supplies to these Posts, call Joe Posato or Wayne Vanover at National Headquarters, (317) 635-8411.

ILLINOIS

Post 297, Dallas City
Post 648, Grafton
Post 682, Warsaw
Post 901, Valmeyer
Post 1971, New Boston

IOWA

Post 26, Davenport
Post 52, Burlington
Post 60, Des Moines
Post 232, Polk City
Post 418, Eddyville
Post 620, W. Des Moines

MISSOURI

Post 318, Parkville
Post 424, Hartsburg

KANSAS

Post 109, Natoma
Post 161, Walthera
Post 255, Tescott

NEBRASKA

Post 150, Nehawka

LEGION, UNION RECEIVE JOB TRAINING GRANT

AN AMERICAN Legion and labor union program that provides job training to recently discharged veterans will expand this fall because of a \$166,300 Department of Labor (DoL) grant.

Legion officials applied for the DoL grant this past May after conducting a successful pilot program earlier in the spring. With the Laborers' International Union of North America, the pilot program trained recently discharged veterans in envi-

ronmental cleanup and construction skills at the Laborers' Greenfield Training Institute in Sterling, Va. "The pilot program worked exceptionally well," says Ronald DiOrio, special assistant with the Laborers' Associated General Contractors. Of the 17 veterans who completed the pilot program, all were offered jobs paying between \$9-\$13 an hour.

"This grant will fund expansion of the program and lead to more veterans finding work," said Joseph J. Frank, chairman of the Legion's Economic Commission.

Union officials estimate that 160 to 170 veterans could receive training because of the grant. The provisions of the grant, which will fund

the program through 1994, require the Legion and the union to contribute \$205,350 of "in-kind" services, which will consist of staff expertise and volunteer services.

Recently discharged veterans accepted in the program receive 80 hours of training from union construction and trade professionals. Like the pilot program, the training is individually tailored to the veterans' skills and career goals.

With the grant, The American Legion and union plan to set up training sites in Milwaukee, Wis.; Charleston, W.Va.; and in southern Illinois. The union selects sites based on training dates and job availability. □

Why Are We Offering Our Authentic WWII Air Force Style B-15 Bomber Jacket For Only \$19.95!



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- Full military action cut
- Warm, deep plush acrylic collar
- Rugged action snap fasteners
- Inside breast pocket with binding
- Two cargo-flapped pockets
- Full front zipper



The authentic Air Force style B-15 Bomber Jacket—inspired by rugged official combat issue for pilots, navigators, bombardiers and tailgunners on B-17's, Mustangs, and B-29 Superbombers.

Here it is, a true classic, at this incredibly low price—guaranteed to first 10,000 who respond.

B-15 Bomber Jackets are the ultimate in "top gun" styling. Rugged good looks. Dynamic style. But why pay a small fortune for this American Classic look! We're offering our authentic WWII style B-15 Bomber Jackets—the same ones nationally advertised by us in leading media from coast to coast—for the incredible price of *only* \$19.95.

Designed and tailored of AeroDyne™ polyurethane for freedom and action... here are the famed features that made WWII Bomber Jackets a legend: soft, supple construction; classic, deep-brown color; warm, furry collar; padded lining; snug, cold-blocking wrist and waistbands; full front zipper; snap fasteners; wind-breaking/water-resistant construction; and deep cargo pockets.

Our authentic WWII Air Force style B-15 Bomber Jacket will not be sold by the company at this—or any—price in any store, since we sell direct to the public. Every imported Bomber Jacket is *guaranteed* for lifetime wear, or your money back excluding shipping and handling charges.

SORRY—we reserve right to limit 5 per address and extend time and quantity guarantees. No dealers or wholesalers, please! Allow up to 6-8 weeks for shipment. **Hurry!**

THE RETURN OF A LEGEND

B-15 Bomber Jacket				
ITEM #	SIZE*	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
R51972	Small	\$19.95		\$
R51973	Medium	\$19.95		\$
R51974	Large	\$19.95		\$
R51975	X-Large	\$21.95		\$
R51976	XX-Large	\$21.95		\$
R51980	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Silk "Flying Ace" Scarf. Full yard banner of white silk.	only \$3.00 w/jacket		\$
R51990	<input type="checkbox"/> Classic Aviator Glasses. Protects from glare & ultraviolet rays	only \$3.00 w/jacket		\$
BONUS				
BONUS				
Add \$4.75 shipping & handling for each jacket				
Subtotal				
In NY & CA add sales tax				
GRAND TOTAL				

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to RBM Ltd. Or charge to my

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER
(Enter all 13 or 16 card numbers below)

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Address _____

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to: Dept. 570-257, Box 1783, Hicksville, NY 11802

*WOMEN: While these Bomber Jackets were originally designed for men, we can't keep the women away from them. So, **Small and Medium Women:** We recommend you order size Men's Small.

VETS Offers Finders/Seekers To Help Locate Old Buddies

LOOKING for an old buddy or a long lost relative? Finders/Seekers may now be able to help you. Finders/Seekers is a new locator service offered by VETS, the electronic system that provides THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine with a monthly list of military reunions.

Just send the person's name, former military unit or any other information you have along with a \$5.95 check or money order to:

**Finders/Seekers
VETS Operating Center
1809 Vandiver Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202-1916**

Here's what you will get for your money:

- A computer search to match the person you're seeking with more than 110 million names from VETS records, and various public

and private registries.

- Based on that one-time search, you will receive a computer listing of the names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking.

- Finders/Seekers guarantees that you will get at least one name that matches, or your money will be fully refunded.

Finders/Seekers, however, cannot guarantee that the person you are seeking is on the list.

For common names such as John Jones or Bill Brown, the home state or other more specific information is required. There are so many Jones and Browns nationwide that the list would be just too long to be useful.

No requests by phone, please. Allow up to six weeks for a reply. □

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000. Unit names may be published two times per year, upon request.

Army

- 1st Brn., 26th Inf., Big Red One's Blue Spaders (1966-67) #13084
 1st Division (WWI, WWII, Vietnam or Persian Gulf) #13081
 1st Eng. Spec. Bde., Incl. 531st Shore Rgt. & Spt. Units #14560
 1st Inf. Div.: Officers (WWI/WWII/Vietnam/Pers.Gulf) #15695
 1st Ord. Med. Maint. Co.(1949-1952) #12361
 2nd Arm'd Div., 41st Inf. Bn., Officers & W.O. (1950/54) #12882
 2nd Inf. Div., 23rd Rgt., F Co. (WWII) #15459
 2nd Inf. Div.: 82nd AAA AW Bn. (SP) (Korea 1950/53) #12149
 2nd Inf. Div., 9th Inf. Rgt., B Co. #10260
 2nd Inf. Div., 9th Rgt., B Co. #20025
 3rd Army & 6th Army, HQ & HQ Co. #10976
 3rd Chemical Mtr. Bn. #15582
 5th Arm'd Div. Assn. #15428
 5th Arm'd Div.'West Coast Chapter' #12398
 5th Army Association (WWII) #13073
 5th Inf. Div., 10th Rgt. Assn. #11169
 6th Inf. Div., 20th Rgt., Co. C #23127
 8th Inf. Div.: 12th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #12196
 8th Inf. Div., 13th Rgt., Cannon Co. (WWII) #13031
 8th Inf. Div.: 28th FA Bn. (WWII) #12192
 8th Inf. Div., 39th Rgt., 1st Bn., C Co. (Germany 1968/70) #14711
 8th Inf. Div.: 43rd FA Bn. (WWII) #12190
 8th Inf. Div.: 8th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #20597
 8th Inf. Div.: 8th Med. Bn. (WWII) #12189
 8th Inf. Div.: 8th MP Pltn. (WWII) #12194
 8th Inf. Div.: 8th Sig. Co. (WWII) #12191
 8th Inf. Div.: HQ Co. (WWII) #12195
 8th Inf. Div.: HQ & HQ Btry. (WWII) #12193
 9th Arm'd Div., 27th Arm'd Inf. Bn., A Co. (WWII) #20590
 9th Arm'd Div., 27th Arm'd Inf. Bn. Assn. (Remagen WWII) #15325
 9th Inf. Div., 39th Rgt., F Co. #10291
 9th Inf. Div. (WVII/TX SW Chapter) #16291
 9th Traffic Reg. Grp., RTO Ranger YD (Nuremberg, Germany, 1946) #10827
 10th Inf. Div., 40th FA Bn. #16176
 13th Arm'd Div., 93rd Cav. Recon Sq. #15562
 13th Arm'd Division Assn. (50th Aniv.) #10409
 13th Armored Division Assoc. (WWII) #13076
 14th Avn. Bn., 174th Assault Helicopter Co #12576
 14th Cav. Grp. (WWII) #12541
 15th Evac. Hospital - (WWII) #16447
 17th A/B Div., 681st A/B FA #20779
 17th Rgt. Reunion Assn., 7th Inf. Div. #21770
 18th Cav. Recon. Sq. (WWII) #12487
 18th Engr. (C) Rgt., 177th Const. Bn., B Co. & Atchd. Units. (Aleutians) #11843
 19th Engr. (C) Rgt. (WWII) #20558
 19th Medical General Lab #10074
 20th Arm'd Div., Trains #12696
 25th FA Bn. #12178
 25th Inf. Div., 13th Art. Rgt., 3rd Bn., Co. A (1966) #12578
 25th Inf. Div. Assn (Korean Veterans)

HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 943 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 10,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

(900) 737-VETS
 (900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS oper-

ators may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Standard Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Standard Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes two minutes or less. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion. □

★ ★ VETS ★ ★

164th QM Brn. (MBL) & Med. Det. (WWII) #22510
 179th FA Brn. Assn. #15964
 183rd FA Brn. #13091
 185th Signal Brn., B Co. #16348
 191st Chemical Depot Co #13808
 204th FA Brn. "Li'l Joe" (WWII) #22783
 212TH Signal Dpt #20188
 233rd Engr. (C) Brn. #15577
 243rd FA Brn. Assn. #16564
 243rd Port Co. #10580
 258th FA Brn / 991st FA Brn #14290
 260th AA Art. Assn. (DCNG) #10312
 266th FA Brn. (WWII) #22013
 273rd QM Brn (3201-3202-3203-3204) #11804
 276th Armored FA Br #12031
 277th FA Brn (All Btry's) #15552
 282nd FA Br. #15256
 283rd Engr. (C) Brn. (WWII) #16726
 283rd FA Brn. (WWII) #15643
 284th Engr. (C) Brn. #10690
 284th FA Brn. Helpmate (WWII) #15526
 289th Engr. (C) Brn. #15261
 290th FA Obsn. Br. #13099
 290th FA Obsvn. Brn. (ETO WWII) #12091
 292nd JASCO (WWII) #20614
 303rd Station Hospital #10941
 317th Barrage Balloon Brn. #12429
 329th Station Hospital (WWII) #22946
 351st Rgt., HQ & HQ Co. #10191
 351st Rgt, HQ & HQ Co (Trieste, 1950/54) #12549
 368th Engr. Br. #28365
 377th Harbor Craft Co. #10926
 424th FA Br. (Korea) #15619
 446th Engr. Base Depot Co. #30042
 449th AAA AW Brn., B Btry. #10825
 449th MP Co. #15554
 461st Amph.Tr. Co., (WWII, attach/6th Eng.Spec.Bde.) #11398
 463rd Ord. Evac. Co. #21307
 464th AAA AW Brn. #20812
 466 Amphibian Truck Co. #13086
 472nd AAA Brn. #11250
 476th AAA AW Brn. (WWII) #15222
 476th Ord. Evac. Co. (WWII) #12854
 482nd Med. Coll. Co. (Sep.) #15211
 487th AAA Brn., B Btry. (WWII) #15973
 487th Engr. W.S. Brn., Co. A,B,C, HQ (WWII) #22936
 488th Engr. LP Co WWII #13860
 489th Port Brn. (WWII) #10133
 497th AAA Gun Brn. (WWII) #22781
 501st Parachute Br. Assn. (Original) #16433
 504th AAA Gun Brn. (WWII) #10872
 505th MP Brn. (WWII) #16417
 513th AAA Brn. #15437
 529th Engrs. Light Ponton (1943/46) #13058
 533rd E.B. & S.R. Rgt #12586
 543rd Engr. Boat & Shore Rgt., Co.B - (All amphib) #15435
 551st AAA Brn. (WWII) 50th Anniv #16307
 594th EB & S Brn., HQ Co. #20711
 609th QM Graves Registration #14232
 619th Engr. #13045
 623rd FA Brn., Bty. B #12738
 632nd TD Brn., C Co. #30045
 643RD TD Br. #15820
 644th Tank Destroyer Brn. #16698
 645th TD Br. #15558
 650th Engr. Topo. Brn. (1942-92) #22266
 672nd Amphib Trac Brn #13866
 673rd FA Brn. Service Batty (1944) #11417
 690th FA Brn. (WWII, Korea) #28292
 691st TD Brn. #16234
 701st MP Brn. #10802
 719th Railway Oper. Br. #12289
 724th T.R.O.B. (Korea) #15568
 729th CA Rgt., 122nd AA Brn. (Shemya,Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #11946
 729th CA Rgt., 641st AA Brn. (Shemya,Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #11947
 729th CA Rgt., 65th AA Brn. (Shemya,Aleutian Is. 1943/46) #17278
 735th Military Police Brn. Assn. #16676
 735th Railway Oper. Brn., Co. C #15649
 738th (M) Tank Brn.(Spc) #15240
 751st Engr. Parts Supply Co. #15460
 759th MP Brn., A,B,C,D & HQ Co.s (WWII to Present) #10728

763rd FA Brn., Sv. Brty.(Ft Jackson-1944; ETO-1945) #11411
 764th FA Brn., Sv. Brty.(ETO-1945; Cp.Hood 1945-46) #11412
 781st Tank Battalion Assn #22798
 788th AAA AW Brn (WWII) #22121
 788th MP Brn, D Co. WWII #11068
 789th EPD Co. (India 1944/45) #15816
 790th FA Br. #10865
 792nd AAA AW Brn. (WWII) #16103
 793rd AAA AW Brn #15998
 808th TD Brn. (WWII) #20264
 814th Ord. Base Dpt. Co. (WWII) #20948
 820th AVN Engr. Bn. #15313
 820th Engr. Avn. Brn. (1952/54) #10600
 821st Engr. Avn. Brn (WWII) #12317
 825th Tank Destroyer Brn. - (WWII) #11093
 832nd Sig. Ser. Br. #14071
 838th AAA AW Brn MBL. #16705
 843rd AAA AW Brn. #16444
 851st Avn. Engr. Brn #14884
 874th A/B Engrs #21276
 875th A/B Engrs #21117
 916th Med. Amb. Co. #10293
 932nd FA Brn, WWII #14366
 951st FA Brn. #13090
 967 Ham Ord Co. #13089
 974th, 975th FA Bns. (WWII) #16314
 1056th Engr. PC&R Grp. (WWII) #12656
 1252nd Engr. (C) Brn. (WWII) #15484
 1255th Engr. (C) Brn (WWII) #16380
 1257th Engr. (C) Brn. (WWII) #15981
 1269th Engr. (C) Brn. (ETO WWII) #13056
 1284th Engr. (C) Brn (WWII) #10854
 1874th Avn. Engr. Brn., WA State, SWP (Australia to Japan) #14143
 1881st Engr. Aviation Brn. #20329
 1884th Engr. Avn. Brn. (WWII) #22201
 3094th QM Refrig. Co. (Fixed) - (WWII) #16169
 3169th Sig Ser Brn, DS Seaborne Comm Det, Weeroona #12543
 3427th Ord., Co. Q #11251
 3622nd QM Trk. Co. (WWII) #13059
 3749th QM Trk. Co. (PTO 1944/46) #12066
 4025th Sig. Ser. Brn. (WWII) #12415
 6834th/2674th Re-Armament Rgt. #12426
 A/B Rangers Brn. Assn. (WWII) #13074
 Army Amphibious Forces #21179
 Army Ranger Assn Inc. #28405
 ASA: 60th Sig. Radio Intl. Co. (1943/51) #10452
 ASA: 8608th Fld. Sta. AAU, 116th Signal (Scheyern, Germany) #15272
 ASA: HQ, ASAPAC (1946/52) #12046
 ASTP/BTC, 5th Rgt., 2nd Co. (Ft Benning 1944) #11422
 Camp Atlanta (NE WWII) #12650
 Camp Fannin Trainees & Cadre (1943/45) #10798
 CID Agents Assn.Inc. #10002
 IFFV Arty & Asslgned Units (Vietnam) #13095
 Nahbollenbach QM Depot - (1951-56) #15893
 OCS Class 302 (Fort Benning Ga 1943) #12339
 P.C. & R. All Grps. (WWII) #12827
 US Constabulary Assn. (1946/52) #18709
 VII Corp, Hq & Hq Co. (WWII) #12550
 XIII Corps Assn. (WWII) #15530

Navy

1st NCB Spec. (WWII) #22524
 4th NCB Spec. 50th Annv #22903
 17th NCB (WWII) #18181
 23rd NCB (WWII) #18345
 28th NCB Spec. (WWII) #18121
 53rd NCB #14487
 67th NCB (WWII) #18512
 68th NCB #14843
 69th NCB #17557
 78th NCB Assn. (WWII) #18083
 95th NCB #10773
 117th NCB #12654
 120th NCB (WWII) #12829
 ABATU TBM-504 (WWII, 1943-45, NAS Norfolk) #11979
 ACORN-45 (Sangley Point NAB) #14382

AG-19 (WWII) #12585
 AMMF's (La Guardia Fld. 1943) #17353
 Amphib. Attack Boat Flotillas (WWII) #11329
 Amphib Base Atk. Boats (Small) (Ft. Pierce Fl) #21897
 Armed Guard: National Reunion (WWII) #17680
 ASA: Det. V, Unit 10 #12653
 CAG-153-15 (1945/49) #18636
 CBMU-506 #11302
 CBMU-552 & 553 #17762
 Corpsman Society (WWII & Korea) #11257
 Cruiser Sailors Assn. (All Ships Company) #11576
 Cryptologic Vets Assn. #21099
 DESRON-52/Miller/Owen/Sullivans/ Potter/Tingey/Hickox/Hunt/Hancock/Mars #22620
 Ebeye Island, Kwajalein Atoll #12087
 Farragut Radiomen (3/15/45) #13085
 FASRON-118 #10861
 GL NTC Co. 813 (1945/46) #13077
 JAX-NAV-AIR VN-11/12/13/14/15/16- (1940-45) #10295
 LCI-396 #12471
 LCI (G) 1056 #17989
 LCI (L) 1-5-8-16,32,33,35,75,193,209,211-219,229,231,232,238 #11232
 LCS (L) (3) 71 #14494
 LCT-962 (1944/45) #11945
 LSM-203 (PTO WWII) #20367
 LST-1018 #21601
 LST-1027 & 569 #21312
 LST-1097 Assn. (WWII) #14458
 LST-119 (WWII) #11702
 LST-138 #10087
 LST-277 (WWII) #10466
 LST-335 #18429
 LST-43 #12476
 LST-487 #17731
 LST-48 (WWII, Normandy & S.France Inv.) #12616
 LST-5 #11157
 LST-508 #21368
 LST-574 Assn. #18504
 LST-602 (WWII/Korea) #17732
 LST-603 #18088
 LST-667 #18020
 LST-700 #20680
 LST-70 (WWII) #11371
 LST-743 #11145
 LST-757 #17602
 LST-777 #17611
 LST-840 #10723
 LST-869 #12661
 LST-887 (Korea) #13784
 LST-887 (Korea) #13075
 LST-907 #17876
 LST-938 #12651
 LST-994 #21802
 Manicani Island SRB: Philpns (Incl. 91/96th NCBS & 478th AAA-1945/46) #12083
 MATS VRS-3/6/7/8/22 & Nat Wings #11126
 MCB-12 1968-69 25th Reunion #13863
 MCB-12 Seabees Assn. Inc. #10742
 MCB-6 #13793
 Mine Assembly Base, West Loch Honolulu, Hawaii (1941-46) #13100
 Mine Assembly Base, West Loch TH (Hawaii 1940-46) #21094
 NAB: Bremerhaven (Germany) #13055
 NANRNU-2 (WWII) #10338
 NAS Kaneohe Bay, "Kaneohe Klippers" (All Personnel, Oahu 1939/50) #18583
 NAS Pensacola A&R shops (1943/46) #22728
 N.A.S. Sangley Point P.I. #12219
 Nat'l. CPO Assn. (Navy/CG) #14476
 Navy Boot Camp, Co. 419 (Faragut ID, 1943) #12123
 NCB-Bobcat (Bora Bora Bobcat Br.) #10220
 NTC Great Lakes: RTC Co. 813 (1945) #12482
 NTC San Diego: FT "A" School Staff #12647
 Observation Fighter Sq. VOF-1/VOC-1 #10585
 PATSU 1-9 (May 1943-45) #14614
 PC-1176 #14451
 PCEC-873 #10515
 Public Works Center, Yokosuka Japan

(1968/72) #13111
 RTC Great Lakes: Co 91 (1950) #14786
 SC-541 #14731
 Seabees: Naples, Italy (1951/56) #17485
 SLCU-34 (Ulithi Isl. WWII) #11921
 Special Weapons Unit Assn. #12652
 Tin Can Sailors (VA Chapt.) #10605
 UDT-13 (WWII) #14573
 UDT-22 "Frogmen" (WWII) #16891
 UDT-3 (WWII) #18261
 USNAB Bremerhaven, Germany - (1951-54) #18671
 USS Abercrombie DE-343 (WWII) #11092
 USS Abner Read DD-526 Survivor Assn. #21132
 USS ABSD-2 #10453
 USS Acree DE-167 (50th Annvsy.) #10239
 USS Alacrity MSO-520 (1965/68) #13079
 USS Albert T. Harris DE-447 #20995
 USS Albert W. Grant DD-649 #17457
 USS Alexander J. Luke DE-577 #18099
 USS Alnitha AK-127 (WWII) #10818
 USS Altamaha CVE-18 #10774
 USS American Legion APA-17 (WWII) #17983
 USS Amycus ARL-2 #17717
 USS Anchor ARS-13 (WWII) #20967
 USS Anthony (DD-515) #21812
 USS Aquarius AKA-16 (Navy & CG) #23088
 USS Arctic AF-7 #18221
 USS Arizona BB-39 Assn. #17929
 USS Bullock DD-569 #11243
 USS Bairako CVE-115 Assn #17366
 USS Bang SS-385 #22805
 USS Barney DD-149 #11026
 USS Begor APD-127 #10048
 USS Bellatrix, AKA-3 (WWII) #13097
 USS Betelgeuse AKA-11/KA-28 #10785
 USS Bismarck Sea CVE-95 (Incl. VC-86 WWII) #17329
 USS Borie DD-215 #12276
 USS Bountiful AH-9 (Incl. Patients/ Passengers) #18055
 USS Braine DD-630 #17441
 USS Briareus AR-12 (WWII & Korea) #17588
 USS Briscoe APA-65 #17878
 USS Brooklyn CL-40 #11168
 USS Burleigh APA-95 (WWII) #18508
 USS Butternut YN-4/AN-9 #17591
 USS Cabot CVL-28 (Incl. Air Squadrons 1943/57) #11081
 USS Caliente AO-53 #18485
 USS Callaway APA-35 (CG Inc) #21813
 USS Canberra CA-70/CAG-2 (Inc Marine Det) 50th Anniv #10038
 USS Caperton DD-650 #10781
 USS Carteret APA-70 #11634
 USS Carter Hall LSD-3 #21839
 USS Cascade AD-16 #12142
 USS Casco AVP-12 (1943/45) #21814
 USS Castor AKS-1 #11204
 USS Chaffee DE-230 #17356
 USS Charles Lawrence DE-53/APD-37 #10408
 USS Chaumont AP-5 #17910
 USS Chehalis AOG-48 #18354
 USS Chickasaw ATF-83 #10324
 USS Chilton APA/LPA-38 (Inc Marines) 1942/72 #22840
 USS Christopher DE-100 #14386
 USS Clarendon AO-22 (1939/69) #18650
 USS Clarnagore SS-343 #10398
 USS Clarion AK-172 #22991
 USS Cleveland CL-55 (Incl. Marines) #10450
 USS Colahan DD-658 (WWII) #17896
 USS Colonial LSD-18 #14615
 USS Concord CL-10 #17515
 USS Converse DD-509 #17900
 USS Cook-Inlet AVP-36 #12381
 USS Coos Bay AVP-25 (WWII 50th Aniv) #11590
 USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assn. #17967
 USS Corry DD-463 #21157
 USS Crater AG-70 (WWII) #17313
 USS Crescent City APA-21 #18491
 USS Crosley APD-87 #13094
 USS Crux AK-115 (WWII) #10833
 USS Dace SS-247 #12298
 USS Daly DD-519 #17829
 USS Darter SS-227 #12297

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 USS DeLong DE-684 #17730
 USS DeLong (DE-684) Reunion Group #13068
 USS Delta AR-9/AK-29 #12216
 USS Delta AR-9/AK-29 #12478
 USS Dickens (APA-161) (WWII) #13060
 USS Dixie AD-14: Supply Department (1959-62) #11550
 USS Dobbin AD-3 & DDs-Dewey, Hull, MacDonough, Phelps, Worden (12/07/4 #18094)
 USS Doyle DD-494/DMS-34 #18622
 USS Drew APA-162 #18574
 USS Duffy (DE-27) 50th Anniv. #22901
 USS Dutton AGS-8 #12296
 USS Eberle DD-430 #11125
 USS Edison DD-439 #10610
 USS Ellison DD-494/DMS-19 #18323
 USS Ericsson DD-440 #10735
 USS Euryale AS-22 #10642
 USS Everett F. Larson DD/DDR-830 #10470
 USS Fiske DD/DDR-842 #17616
 USS Frank E. Evans DD-754 ASSN #22287
 USS Frank Knox DDR-742 (1944/70) #10066
 USS Franklin CV-13 #17889
 USS Fred T. Berry DD/DDE-858 #10882
 USS Gatling DD-671 #17696
 USS General M. L. Hersey AP-148 #13050
 USS General S.D. Sturgis AP-137 (Marines Included) #17831
 USS Genesee AOG-8 #21482
 USS George E. Davis DE-357 #30106
 USS Gillespie DD-609 (1942/45) #12852
 USS Glacier AGB-4 (1955/66) #14868
 USS Gladiator AM-319 (WWII/Korea) #21909
 USS Gold Star AG-12 (Pre-WWII Guam Navy & Marines) #18532
 USS Grand Canyon AD-28 #17886
 USS Grayson DD-435 #10237
 USS Gridley DD-380 #17734
 USS Guest DD-472 #18197
 USS Gunston Hall LSD-5 (WWII-Present) #22214
 USS Hale DD-642 #21194
 USS Halligan DD-584 #10734
 USS Hambleton DD-455/DMS-20 #17738
 USS Hammer DD-718 #23093
 USS Hampton APA-115 #13799
 USS Hamul AD-20/AK-30 #18527
 USS Hank DD-702 #18155
 USS Hansford APA-106 Assn. #20390
 USS Hanson DDR/DD-832 #28390
 USS Harold J. Ellison DD-864 #14656
 USS Haverfield DE-393 (WWII) #17613
 USS Henderson AP-1 #17909
 USS Henley DD-391 #18209
 USS Hermitage LSD-34 #21218
 USS Hersey AP-148 #10772
 USS Hickox DD-673 (DESRON-52) #12265
 USS Highlands APA-119 #21951
 USS Hobby DD-610 (1942-45) #18535
 USS Holder DD/DDE-819/DE-401 #10026
 USS Hornet Club Inc. (CV-8/12/CVA-12/CVS-12) #17950
 USS Hornet CV-8 Survivors #18376
 USS Hovey DMS-11/DD-208 #12649
 USS Howorth DD-592 Assn. #18064
 USS Hudson DD-475 #11008
 USS Hugh L. Scott AP-43 (WWII) #22378
 USS Hunt DD-674 (DESRON-52) #12472
 USS Huse DE-145 Assn. #18453
 USS Indiana BB-58 Assn (Marines Included) #17525 USS Irwin DD-794 Assn. #10482
 USS Jaccard DE-355 #13865
 USS Jamestown AGP-3 (52nd Annvsv Guadalcanal, Tulagi) #22366
 USS John Paul Jones Assn. DD-230/DD-932/DDG-32 #11231
 USS John R. Pierce DD-753 (1944/73) #18303
 USS J. Richard Ward DE-243 #17589
 USS Jupiter AK-43 (SLCU-26) #23025
 USS Kadashan Bay CVE-76/VC-20 Assn #18035
 USS Kankakee AO-39 #18060
 USS Kaskaskia AO-27 #18021
 USS Kenmore (AP-162/AK-221) (WWII) #13063

USS Kenneth D. Bailey DD-713 #13053
 USS Key DE-348 #17650
 USS Knapp DD-653 (WWII/Korea) #17823
 USS Kretschmer DE-329/DER-329 #10433
 USS Kwajalein CVE-98 (WWII) #17423
 USS Kwajalein M.A.M.U. (CVE-98) 1944-45 #10485
 USS Lacerta AKA-29 #10397
 USS Langley CVL-27 Assn. #21195
 USS LaPorte APA-151 (WWII) #10262
 USS Lawrence C. Taylor DE-415 #21434
 USS Laws DD-558 #21614
 USS Leedstown APA-56 Assn #18353
 USS Leo AKA-60 / USS Muliphen AKA-61 (WWII) #23010
 USS Leutze DE-481 #21538
 USS Lewis Hancock DD-675 (DESRON-52) #12266
 USS Lindsey DM-32 #10722
 USS Lovelace DE-198 Assn. (WWII) #18585
 USS LST-735 (WWII, 1944-46) #13102
 USS Major DE-796 #10419
 USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658) #11933
 USS Marshall DD-676 (DESRON-52) #12267
 USS Mattaponi AO-41 #17962
 USS Maurice J. Manuel DE-351 (WWII) #21820
 USS Mayrant DD-402 #17662
 USS McCalla DD-488 #14683
 USS McGowan DD-678 (1943/60) #17624
 USS McNair DD-679 #12719
 USS Memphaden SS-377 #12299
 USS Meredith DD-890/165/434/726 #10763
 USS Meredith (DD-890, 165, 434, 726) #13080
 USS Miami CL-89 50th Anniv #10943
 USS Miller DD-535 Assn. #18017
 USS Miller DD-535 (DESRON-52) #12468
 USS Mission Bay CVE-59 #18408
 USS Monsen DD-436 1940/42 #11186
 USS Monsen DD-798 (WWII & Korea) #17420
 USS Montour APA-101 #14722
 USS Montpelier CL-57 Assn. West Coast Chapter. #11832
 USS Montpelier CL-57/SSN-765 (Nat'l Assn.) #17788
 USS Morris DD-417 (1940-45) #21285
 USS Muliphen AKA-61 #28285

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 USS North Carolina BB-55 Assn. #17623
 USS O'Brien DD-725 (WWII, Korea, Vietnam) #21597
 USS Octans AF-26 #21821
 USS Ogden LPD-5 #13054
 USS Oklahoma BB-37 Assn #17830
 USS Orca AVP-49 Assn #21325
 USS Owen DD-536 (DESRON-52) #12261
 USS Parker DD-604 (WWII) #10415
 USS Patterson DD-392 #17704
 USS Paul Hamilton DD-590 #18010
 USS Penguin M-33 #13795
 USS Phillipine Sea CV-47 Assn. & Mar. Det. (KOREA) #28301
 USS Picking DD-685 (WWII) #17710
 USS Pine Island AV-12 Assn. #18457
 USS President Hayes APA-20 #17592
 USS Presley DE-371 #11752
 USS Pursuit AM-108 / AGS-17 #11021
 USS Quapaw ATF-110 50th Anniv. Assn. #21242
 USS Quick DD-490/DMS-32 #14564
 USS Quillback SS-424 #21246
 USS Rainier AE-5 #18272
 USS Rapidan AO-18 #18513
 USS Rawlins APA-226 (WWII) #22004
 USS Register APD-92/DE-233 #17899
 USS Reid DD-369 #17653
 USS Rendova CVE-114 #30095
 USS Ringness APD-100 #17473
 USS Robert E. Lee SSBN-601 (Blue Crew) #11419
 USS Robert H. McCord DD-822 #10720
 USS Rogers DD/DDR-876 #11123
 USS Rolf DE-362 #10946
 USS Rudyard Bay CVE-81 Assn. #12711
 USS Russell DD-414 #18573
 USS Sabine AO-25 #17392
 USS Sage AM-111 #17761
 USS Salem CA-139 (Marines included) #17373
 USS Samaritan AH-10 (Incl. patients/passengers) #17921
 USS Sampson DDG-10 #16279
 USS Samuel S. Miles DE-183 #17961
 USS Saranac OA-74 #17476
 USS Saratoga CV-3/CV-60/CVA-60 #17906
 USS Schmitt #18188
 USS Schroeder DD-501 #10657
 USS Senate ARL-26 #10144
 USS Sevier APA-233 #10782
 USS Shamrock Bay CVE-84 (Incl. VC-42, VC-94, VC-96 1941/46) #18063
 USS Shasta AE-6 (1953/55) #22572
 USS Shikelfop APV-52 #21915
 USS Shenandoah AD-26 #20813
 USS Shields DD-596 (Korean War) #18069
 USS Sigourney DD-643 (1943/47, 1951/59) #18309
 USS Southampton AKA-66 #12624
 USS Sperry AS-12 (PTO 1942/45) #11866
 USS Spiegel Grove LSD-32 (1956/91) #12026
 USS Steinaker DD-863 #13108
 USS Stentor ARL-26 #13861
 USS Stephen Potter DD-538 (DESRON-52) #12263
 USS Stevens DD-479 (WWII) #17912
 USS Stickell DD/DRB-88 #17564
 USS St Lo CVE-63 & VC-65 #17315
 USS Stockham DD-683 #17508
 USS Stoddard DD-566 #18218
 USS Stormes DD-780 #13110
 USS Straub DE-181 #18295
 USS Sullivans DD-537 (DESRON-52) #12262
 USS Sumter APA-52 #11084
 USS Swennning DE-394 #18398
 USS Taluga AO-62 (WWII) #10967
 USS Teton AGC-14 (Inc Mar & Army Det) #15144
 USS Tingey DD-539 (DESRON-52) #12264
 USS Tisdale DE-33 #18051
 USS Tombigbee AOG-11 #11919

USS Topeka CLG-8 1959/70 (Inc Mar) #17482
 USS Trutta SS-421 #13103
 USS Twiggs DD-591 #12620
 USS Uvalde AKA-88 (1944/68) #18396
 USS Vogelgesang DD-862 #13109
 USS Wadeigh DD-689 (Plankowners, WWI) #18265
 USS Wadsworth DD-516 #18201
 USS Waldron DD-699 #11119
 USS Walter B. Cobb APD-106 (1945/57) #18441
 USS Warrington DD-30/DD-383/DD-843 #17997
 USS Washington BB-56 #14533
 USS Wasp CV/CVA/CVS-18 (Marines & Air Grps. incl. 1943/72) #18682
 USS Waukesha AKA-84 #18275
 USS West Virginia BB-48 #21227
 USS Wharton AP-7 Associates #10928
 USS Wilkes Barre CL-103 #10540
 USS William C. Lawe DD-763 #17799
 USS William P. Biddle APA-8 (WWII) #18097
 USS Willis DE-395 #11066
 USS Woodford AKA-86 (WWII) #17691
 USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN-624 #21243
 USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn. (WWII/Korea/Vn/Mar) #21917
 USS Yakutat AVP-32 #20464
 USS Yakutat AVP-32 #13083
 USS Yokes APD-69 #13010
 USS Yorktown CV-10: All Ship's Co. Assn. (1943/70) #10821
 V-12 Pgm. Natl. (USN/USMC WWII) #28302
 V-12 Pgm.: Univ. of Louisville (50th Anniv.) #22994
 VA-728/VA-155 (Korea, 1950/55) #18460
 VB-19 (USS Lexington CV-16, 1943/44) #13078
 VB/PB-106 (WWII-50th Anniv.) #17759
 VB/PB-144 (WWII) #22742
 VC-4 #21711
 VJ-1 #21633
 VP-22 (WWII) #14867
 VP-26 (Korea) #10367
 VP-772 (Korea, 1950) #13101
 VP-772 Navy Patrol Sq. (Korea, 1950) #13082
 VP772 Navy Patrol Squadron (Korea 1950) #12447
 VP-8/VPML-8/VP-201 "Patrol Sq. 8 Alumni Assn." #12648
 VPB-118 (WWII) #21303
 VP/PB-18 #17874
 VQ-1/2/5/6 #20396
 VT-86 "Torpedo Squadron 86" (WWII) #10681
 VT (N) 53 (WWII) #12372
 YMS-369 1943/47 #10555

Air Force

1st Aircraft Assembly Sq. #12517
 4th Ftr. Intcpt. Wing, 334th Ftr. Intcpt. Sqd. (Kimpo Air Base) #28412
 5th AF 46th Svc. Grp. #21428
 5th Comm. Grp., 934th Sig. Bn. (All Squads Korea) #15000
 6th Armament & Electronics Sqdn. #13098
 8th AF: Hist. Soc. (Penn. Chptr.) #14737
 11th AF Assoc./Americans Home from Siberia (WWII) #13065
 11th Air Force Assn. (Including AAF) #15074
 12th AF Hosp. Nurse Corps. (Vietnam) #13096
 26th Bomb Sqdn., Altus AFB (1957-68) #11673
 38th Com. Sq. (France 1951/55) #12522
 40th Bomb Wing #12209
 81st Tac. Ftr. Wing (Bentwaters England) #12579
 86th Air Serv. Grp., 349th Air Engr. Sq., 584th Material Sq. #21846
 99th Bomb Grp. (H) #15147
 102nd AC & W Sq. (1951-53) #15060
 174th Avn. Co., 1 Avn. Br. (1968 America) #10637
 301st Air Serv. Grp., HQ & HQ Sq. #22298

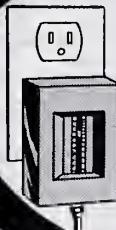
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304th Frt. Sq.: Pinellas AB (WWII)
#10400
314th TC Grp., 62 TC Sq. (Korea
1951/57) #23073
316th TC Grp., 37th TC Sq. (Korea
1951/57) #23072
339th Frt. Sq.: Japan (1947/58) #10707
339th TC Signal Co. #13088
344th Bomb Grp. Assn. #15010
374th Food Sv. Sq. #15088
405th Frt. Bomber Grp.: TAC (Langley
AFB 1952/58) #10551
440th Frt. Intcp. Sq. #21997
449th Bomb Group (H) (WWII - Italy)
"Flying Horsemen" 15th Air Force
#10650
547th Ammo Supply Sq #18613
623rd AC & W Sq. Det. 1 (Okinawa-
1953/54) #22831
815th TCS "Flying Jennies" (C-119s
Ashiya Japan, 1950's) #12893
2152nd Comm. Sq. #11807
3520th Flying Training Wing (B-47, T-33)
#15117
6400th Air Police Sq #22149
6415th A.B. Sq. (APO#815 Iwo Jima
52/56) #11620
6415th Inst. Sq. (APO 815,Iwo Jima
1953/55) #21754 7
505th USAF Hospital #21612
Air Force Postal & Courier Assn.
(AFPCA) #10869
Air Rescue Assn. (Including Army Air
Force) #15115
Air Weather Assn. #17266
Avn. 58-B/C/D #23052
Ellington AFB Navigators & Observers
Assn. #12577
Miyako Jima A Sta. (1962/63) #11808
Nha Trang Air Base (Vietnam) #12813
Pilot Class 50-G #15104
Pilot Trng. Class 58-B-C-D (1956/57)
#23118
SAC Airborne Command Control #12218
Wheelus AB (Tripoli 1948/51) #10676

Army Air Force

1st SAD (Strat. Air Dpt.,Honington
AB,Eng. WWII) #16840
2nd AARU(F) 50th Anniv #12006
2nd Air Div., 392nd Bomb Grp. (Mem.
Assoc.) #14280
2nd BAD Assn. #16987
4th Ferry Grp., ATC: Nashville &
Memphis (WWII) #16811
4th Ferrying Grp., FD, ATC (WWII)
#13061
5th Aircraft Repair Unit (F) #12221
5th Army Aircraft Repair Unit (Floating)
50th Anniv #21715
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 23rd Bomb. Sq.
#16922
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 31st Bomb Sq. (WWII)
#22707
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 394th Bomb Sq./4th
Reconnaissance Sq. #14291
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 72nd Bomb Sq.
#14279
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 868th Bomb. Sq.,
"The Snopers" #16935
5th Bomb Grp., (PTO, WWII) #16912
6th AF: HQ & HQ Sq., 406th Sig. Avn.
(Panama 1945/46) #12065
7th AF: 41st Bomb Grp., 48th Bomb Sq.
(WWII) #12733
7th AF: Finance Office (Hickam Field
Hawaii, 1942/45) #12580
8th Photo Recon. Sq. (WWII) #10738
9th AF, 112th Liaison Sq. #12163
12th Bomb Grp., 434th Bomb Sq.
#22750
12th College Trng. Det. #23109
13th (Jungle) AF Veterans Assn #22748
19th TC Sq. Southern Cross Alwys
Assn. (WWII) #16852
20th Frt. Grp Assn. (All Sq. WWII)
#12584
20th TC Sq., 6th AF #16875
22nd Air Base Grp., 478th Serv. Sq., 30th
Mat. Sq. (1942/45) #16998
25th Bomb Grp., Rcn. Sp. (Former 802nd
Rcn Walton, England 1944/45) #16974
29th Bomb Grp (Guam) #13859

30th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #16829
36th Fighter Grp. (1939/47) #15125
38th Air Depot Grp., Repair Sq. #21841
40th Bomb Grp./28th Serv. Outfit (WWII)
#11128
42nd Bomb Grp., 390th Bomb Sq. (13th
AF) #16851
47th Fighter Sq. (WWII) #15056
49th Air Dpt. Grp. (WWII) #16944
49th Prst. Frt./Fr. Intcp. Sq. #20226
50th Air Serv. Grp. (WWII) #12646
52nd Ftr. Grp., 5th Ftr. Sq. #20989
57th Ftr. Grp. (WWII) #12859
64th TC Grp. #10141
69th Serv. Sq. #15054
75th Troop Carrier Sq. #11044
84th Dpt. Rep. Sq. #13864
85th Dpt. Repair Sq. #20894
90th Bomb Grp. (H) B-24's "Jolly
Rogers" 5th A.F. (WWII) #10462
97th Bomb Grp. Assn.(8th AF England,
15th AF Italy, 12th AF Africa 19
#10435
100th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #15029
301st Air Serv. Grp. (CBI) #15079
305th Airdrome Sq. #16860
307th Bomb Grp (HV) #22817
313th Bomb Wing (HV), 505th Bomb
Grp. #20507
313th TC Grp., 49th TC Sq. (9th AF
WWII) #11198
322nd TC Sq., 14th Trans. Sect.
(1942/45) #16786
323rd Bomb Grp, 456th Bomb Sq. (M)
#10464
339th Ftr. Grp. (8th AF, Sta. F378,
Fowlmere England, WWII) #21845
339th Service Sq. #16791
341st Bomb Grp. (M), 22nd Bomb Sq.
(CBI/WWII) #16756
342nd Air Ser Sq #12411
354th Ftr. Grp. Assn. (353rd, 355th,&
356th Sqdns.) #15136
356th Ftr. Grp. Assn. (8th AF) #21629
358th Ftr. Grp. "ORANGEAILS" (All
Sq.&Sp. Units WWII) #10635
363rd Fighter/Recon. Grp.& Atch Units
#15691
367th Ftr. Grp. Assn., 392nd/393rd/394th
Ftr. Sq. (ETO WWII) #16876
368th Ftr. Grp., 395th/396th/397th Ftr.
Sqdns. Assn. #10799
382nd Air Serv Grp, 598th Eng Sq.
#12520
390th Bomb Grp. (8th AF WWII) #10469
394th Sig. Avn. Co. #28415
397th Bomb Grp. (WWII) #16972
401st Bomb. Grp. (H) Assn. #15137
437th Sig. Con. Br. #15207
440th, 465th, & 472nd Signal Heavy
Const. Br.;(1942-Present)Inc AF
#10154
446th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #16991
452nd Bomb Grp. Assn. #11142
454th Bomb Grp. (Italy WWII) #16889
457th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #20024
507th Fighter Grp. Assn., 463rd/464th
sq. & HQ Det. (WWII) #13052
560th, 561st, 562nd SAW Bns (WWII)
#16982
569th Strat. Air Wing Brn., Co. C (WWII,
50th Anvsys) #20192
595th S.A.W. Co A, 5th Platoon #12546
821st Engr. Avn. Bn. #12208
871st Signal Corps Association (WWII-
Guam) #12215
896th Sig. Avn. Dpt. Co. (9th AF WWII)
#10688
1901st Engr. Avn. Bn. (Okinawa WWII)
#11806
2072nd QM Truck Co. #10911
2490th QM Truck Co., Avn. (9th AF,
309th Serv. Grp.) #12825
AAF Cadets Trnning (Parks College
St.Louis Univ. WWII) #12841
Air Commandos, 2nd(CBI)/3rd(SWPAC)
Grps. (WWII) #16792
ATC: North African Div 1943/46 #13862
Cadet Classes: CTD Concord College
#21724
Crash Rescue Boat Assn.,AAF & USAF
#14647
Hanger #1 (SAC,ATT.462 X'S Lowry
AFB) #20724
Kingman Army Air Field (Kingman, AZ)
#16957

North African Div. ATC (1943/46) #22291
P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Assn. (WWII)
#16839
Pilot Class 42-X (Randall Fld.) #16774
Pilot Class 43-K (Moody Field, GA)
#12588
Pilot Class 44-A (Luke AFB) #12078
Pilot Class 44-G (Mariana,FL) #30021
Pilot Class 44-I (Williams Fld, AZ)
#30022
Pilot Class 45-C (Marfa TX) #11513
W & B Flying School (Chickasha OK,
WWII) #22764

Government Island/Bay Area:
CoastGuard Island (WWII) #11444
Greenland Patrol (WWII All 45 Vessels &
Shore Stations) #23112
LST-26 #10143
LST-69 #20993
LST-70 (WWII) #12668
LST-763 #10838
SC-527 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12330
SC-528 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12331
SC-688 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12332
SC-689 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12333
SC-704 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12334
SC-705 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
#12335
USCGC Minnetonka WAGC-67 #23011
USCGC Mohawk WPG-78 -
(GREENLAND PATROL 1940/45)
#17051
USCGC Northland WPG-49 (Greenland
Patrol 1940/45) #21651
USS Active WSC-125 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23128
USS Aivik WYP-164 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23129
USS Akla WYP-168 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23130
USS Alatok WYP-172 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23131
USS Albatross AM-71 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23132
USS Algonquin WPG-75 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #23133
USS Amarok WYP-166 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23134
USS Aquarius AKA-16 #17018
USS Arik WYP-167 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23135
USS Arthur Middleton APA-25 #12665
USS Arundel WYT-90 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23136
USS Arvek WYP-165 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23137
USS Atak WYP-163 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23138
USS Bear AG-29 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23139
USS Big Horn (AO) - Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12337
USS Bluebird AM-72 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23140
USS Bowdoin IX-50 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23141
USS Cactus WAGL-270 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #23142
USS Callaway APA-35 (Navy Incl.)
#17058
USS Cayuga CG-54 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23143
USS Centaurus AKA-17 #11272
USS Citus WAGL-300 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #23144
USS Comanche WPG-76 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #15162
USS Eastwind WAG-279 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #23145
USS Escanaba WPG-77 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #23146
USS Evergreen WAGL-295 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #12309
USS Faunce WSC-138 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12310
USS Frederick Lee WSC-139 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #12311
USS General Greene WSC-140
Greenland Patrol (1940/45) #12312
USS Harveson DE-316 (1943/47) #10081
USS Joseph T Dickman APA-13 #30000
USS Laurel WAGL-291 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12313
USS Manitou WYT-60 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12314
USS Modoc WPG-46 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12315
USS Mohawk WPG-78 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12316
USS Mojave WPG-47 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #10522
USS Nanow WYP-169 Greenland Patrol
1940/45 #12318

Marines

1st Mar. Div., 1st Amp. Tractor Bn.
(WWII) #15339
1st Mar. Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn. "Devil
Dogs" Assn. (Korea) #20324
1st Mar. Div., 1st Scout/1st Recon Co.
(WWII) #21893
1st Mar. Div., 3rd Arm'd Amph/6th Amph
Bn. (WWII) #17086
1st Mar. Rgt., 3rd Bn. Assn. (1941/45)
#30006
1st Separate Topo Srvy. Pltn. (1943/45)
#30069
2nd Airdrome Bn., 17th AAA Bn. (WWII)
#21009
3rd Amph. Trac. Bn. (WWII) #17083
3rd Bn. 5th Marines (1960) Known as
3/5-60 #12220
3rd Mar. Div.: 3rd JASCO #17144
3rd Mar. Div.: 9th Rgt., 1st Bn., C
Co. (1942-45) #11011
4th Mar. Div., 23rd Rgt., Rgt. Weapons
Co. (WWII) #21068
8th & I Marines (1951/54) #13087
10th Amph. Trac. Bn., A Co. (WWII)
#28379
10th Defense (AA) Bn. WWII #17080
11th Rgt., 2nd Bn., E Co. (WWII) #12818
16th Defense Bn. 5inch Coastal Artillery
(1942/45) #17195
27th Rgt., 1st Bn., HQ Co. (WWII)
#12860
Avn. Supply Marines (East) #17100
Avn. Supply Marines (West) #17127
Banana Fleet Marines (1920/40) #17168
CAP Unit Assn. (Vietnam 1965/71)
#21321
MAG-11/12/14 #17166
MAG-25 SCAT (WWII) #21038
Mar. Corps Air Trans. Assn. (All
VMR/VMGR Sqns.) #17076
Mar. Det. USS Missouri BB-63 (1947/51)
#10343
Mar. Det.: USS Philippine Sea CV-47
#17091
Mar. Det. USS Wisconsin BB-64
(Commissioning 1944/45) #11957
Marine Air Group 15 (M.A.G.-15) #11252
Marine Air Traffic Control Assn. #22388
Marine/Navy Paratroopers (WWII)
#17132
Marine Support Bn., L Co. #10560
MAWS-11 (Kume Shima) #17134
Parris Isl. Chapt. Mar. Corps Dls (WWII)
#11163
RECON Co.s Korea #12636
Tankers Assn., (East Coast Chapter)
#12821
USMC VMSB/MTB-232 #13093
VMB-611 #17120
VMB-612-PBJ SQD.-WWII #17104
VMF-115 Pilots & Crewmen #14732
VMF-121 (WWII) #17102
VMF-422 (Corsairs WWII) #17126
VMFA-312 "Checkerboard" (WWII)
#12583
VMF/VMA-211 Reunion Association
#12431 VMF/VMA 311 #10088
VMSB-133 (Incl. MAG-24 Units) #17113
VMSB-241 (WWII) #17184
VMTB-131 #21526
Wake Island Avengers - (1941) #17263

Coast Guard

12 PBY-5A Catalinas, VP6 Greenland
Patrol 1940/45 #12336

Please turn to page 76

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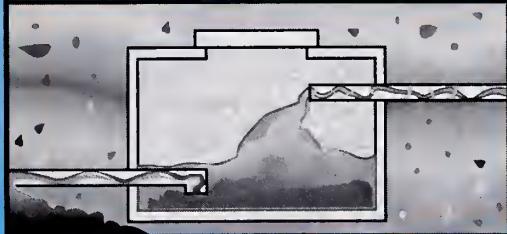
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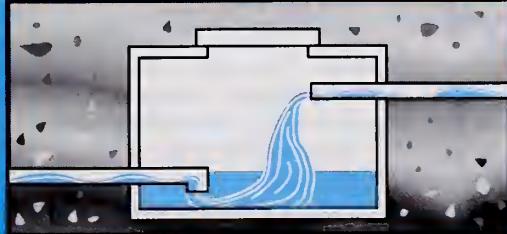
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Simply call our Toll Free Number for more info or just fill out the coupon below.

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THE SOLOMONS

Continued from page 20

equally fierce. Americans doubted only a handful of defenders—between 1,000 and 2,000—could have survived the shattering naval and air barrage of the island. But actually 5,000 well-dug-in Japanese troops awaited Marines of the Second Division as they waded in a half mile over coral flats on Nov. 20, 1943. A predicted high tide failed to materialize, stranding the Marines' amtracs far off the beach. The Marines faced murderous fire from machine-gun pillboxes and 8-foot thick concrete blockhouses, taking casualties up to 50 percent before reaching the shelter of a coconut log seawall along the beach.

"We need help. Situation bad," radioed Col. David M. Shoup, as he huddled against his command post, a Japanese blockhouse. Shoup, who went on to become the Marine Commandant in the 1970s, earned a Medal of Honor for his heroism on Tarawa.

By the second day, some artillery and a few tanks made it ashore. But for the next four days, it was bayonet-in-the-gut fighting, as the Marines fired flame throwers and lobbed grenades through gunslits to rid the island of its defenders. Of the 5,000 Japanese, only 17 survived. One of every 18 Marines was killed — a total of 1,027. Navy chaplains directed Seabee bulldozers to dig mass graves until permanent interment could be arranged.

Meanwhile, planners back in Adm. Chester Nimitz's Pacific Command headquarters in Honolulu reassessed the battle. A few thought it had been unnecessary — the attack should have been made closer to Japan in the Marshall and Caroline Islands farther west. But Tarawa had gained for the Allies a "permanent aircraft carrier" from which to launch air attacks in the mid-Pacific.

And the U.S. Navy learned some valuable lessons about amphibious warfare. Henceforth, naval gunfire would be lobbed from on high down on dug-in troops instead of ineffectively directed in a flat trajectory against thick concrete walls.

Improved radios were a must for better battlefield and sea-to-shore communications. So were better landing craft needed, and beachheads had to be better organized and established faster.

Those lessons were costly, though. For the blackboards of Tarawa were written in blood. □

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THIESSEN

Continued from page 43

Q. Another group of veterans — from the Vietnam War — are still suffering from Agent Orange. What must the Legion do to help them?

A. A recent \$995,000 National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (NAS/IOM) report on Agent Orange concluded that two new diseases might be directly linked to exposure to the defoliant: Hodgkin's disease and prophyria cutanea tarda (PCT). VA has properly added both diseases to the list of Agent Orange ailments considered to be service-connected. Three other diseases were already on that list— chloracne, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma.

The report also concluded that these diseases were associated with exposure to herbicides and not service in Vietnam. It was the first time any branch of the federal government has admitted that Agent Orange, and not service in Vietnam, could be responsi-

ble for the diseases.

This is a major victory for veterans. What we need to do now is get VA to locate veterans who are due compensation for Agent Orange-related diseases. We need to get VA to do a full, unbiased ground troop study, and use this NAS report as a launching pad to get justice for victims of Agent Orange.

Q. But how can we give more and more benefits to new veterans when the number of aging veterans is already putting an enormous strain on VA's resources?

A. VA is aware that more and more aging veterans are going to be needing their services. But being aware of a problem doesn't mean that they're ready for it.

By 2000, VA could be treating as many as 9 million veterans older than 65 — 2 million more than today. VA's facilities can treat them, but only Congress can give VA the money it needs to do it. We have to see that Congress allows VA to do its job properly, and to take care of the nation's aging veterans.

Q. Many veterans are entering the

civilian job market as the military downsizes. What is the Legion doing to help them find work?

A. Our network in communities across the country has the potential of being a great help to GIs looking for civilian jobs. Many Legionnaires have their own businesses, and I think many of them would prefer to hire veterans.

The best way the Legion can help service people find work is Post by Post, community by community. That's how most jobs are going to be found.

But, as a national organization, we are doing many other things to assist GIs making the transition from military service to civilian careers.

We've set up a partnership with the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, for training veterans in construction and environmental cleanup.

And at our national conventions, we continue to recognize and honor companies that go out of their way to hire veterans.

There's probably no one way to find jobs for the 500,000 GIs who will be leaving the service by 1995 because of the downsizing. But the Legion is gearing itself to be a matchmaker—getting veterans and employers together at job fairs conducted by many of our Posts.

Q. The Cold War is over, and some even say we've seen the last of war. How must the Legion change its national security policies as it enters its 75th year?

A. The Legion doesn't really need to change the focus on national security that it has had over the past seven decades. Bosnia is an illustration that peace is not a certainty in the absence of the Cold War.

However, as more and more policymakers come to Capitol Hill without any military experience or knowledge, I think we will need to educate them about the service.

As National Commander, my first goal is to see that America doesn't drop its guard and allow a hollow Army to develop.

Frankly, I'm concerned that the Clinton administration's plans to reduce U.S. forces below 1.6 million will endanger national security. Legionnaires can plainly see that we are on the brink of underestimating the threats as we did in Korea and Vietnam. Many of our brothers and sisters died because of those mistakes. Many

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Discover why millions are suffering from the pseudo-diseases caused by parasites.

I always thought of myself as a healthy person. I grew up in the Midwest, made it through school, married my sweetheart, and landed a secure job with a nationwide firm. But my life strangely changed. I began having daily bouts of diarrhea, and started taking medicine prescribed by the company doctor for my cramps and bloating. To make matters worse, I developed allergies and a creeping fatigue that made me listless. Worse, I had developed some cardiovascular, pancreatic, and arthritis signs.

One night, my wife said, "John, let's eat out and relax; we need to have a talk." Barbara asked me to make an appointment with our family doctor for a thorough physical and lab tests that would help him diagnose my illness. She wouldn't take "No" for an answer, so I made an appointment.

After Dr. Martin completed the exam and went over the tests, he shrugged his shoulders, and with a condescending smile announced, "You're fine. Your heart checks out, your blood pressure's normal, and you're weight is OK. Well, maybe you're a tad underweight. Here's a stronger prescription for your allergies and a new drug for your diarrhea. Take a vacation and stop worrying."

Nothing helped. Well, if anything, I really began sliding downhill. I suffered from chronic exhaustion and the stomach cramps got much worse. I complained to my best buddy Lloyd. We met at the YMCA years ago. Lloyd works as a field troubleshooter for the World Health Organization at the United Nations.

I sighed, "Lloyd, I just can't get over this dragged out feeling, and my gut is always on fire. I'm beginning to look puny from the weight loss. I'm worried because my doctor can't find anything wrong with me."

Lloyd replied, "John, I have a hunch about what is probably causing your poor health. You're going to be shocked. You look and act just like the people we see and treat in the field. I mean the ones suffering from parasites. You have all the classic symptoms we're trained to look for."

"You think ... I have worms! Come on Lloyd! People living in America just don't get worms — well, not unless they don't bathe regularly."

Lloyd looked me straight in the eye and said, "You're wrong my friend. The World Health Organization just released a comprehensive report about parasites. I saw the tell-tale numbers, showing the scope of the parasite infestation problem. Even Japan, the world's healthiest nation ... recently lost 24 million man-hours as a result of parasitic infections.

Even back in the seventies parasites were so rampant that they threatened 1400 million people in 71 countries. Today's figures have about doubled. Parasitic infection is spreading like wildfire."

Alarmed, I said, "Wait a minute. If my problem is really parasites, where do I go for help if my doctor turns me away?"

"There is help. You can get rid of these parasites, which sap strength and cause chronic illness," Lloyd reassured me. Then he told me about the WorldLife Company's EXPULSE FORMULA II." He said, "John, this is one marvelous product that works miracles. It isn't a drug; it contains 12 natural herbs and extracts which work harmoniously to safely purge parasites out of the body. Let's place an order with the WorldLife Company now. A full month's supply is only \$19.95 plus \$3.00 for delivery. Afterwards I'll tell you everything you need to know about parasites."

Lloyd went on to tell me that millions of us aren't even aware that we harbor parasites. He showed me that worms can afflict and trigger disease in you, me, or anyone else. It doesn't matter whether you're wealthy or poor, young or old, male or female, or where you live!

Three days after I started taking the EXPULSE FORMULA II, I started feeling better. I had more pep, I stopped losing weight, and my complexion had a healthier glow. I saw the evidence. I actually saw worms coming out of my body! Lloyd was right about the worms! Believe me, knowing that I had life-threatening parasites was scarier than thinking I might have them.

I was so relieved to be getting rid of them that I called The WorldLife Company again at 1 (800) 451-2194 and purchased a second bottle to make sure they were completely gone. The WorldLife Company accepts VISA, Discover, and Mastercard. Anyone can place a mail or phone order. Ask them for offer # AL11H, Box 30665, Albuquerque, NM 87190. The EXPULSE FORMULA II was overcoming the parasites that made me sick.



Shortly after taking my second bottle of the EXPULSE FORMULA II, I started enjoying life again. My diarrhea quit, my energy rebounded ... and my allergies vanished. I felt good enough to quit taking the medicine my doctor prescribed. Then I ordered the book Lloyd recommended, "PURGE YOUR BODY/How to Expel Parasites Which Can Cause Disease." I found out how parasites affect health. I want you to send for this wonderful book so you won't be in the dark like I was about the danger of catching worms in America. Jot down the publisher's name and address at the bottom of this ad.

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THIESSEN

Continued from page 58

more will die in the future unless we can keep our military strong.

I'm also disappointed that the President made the Defense Department (DoD) ban on homosexuals an issue. He should have respected the wisdom of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — that homosexuality is incompatible with military service — and let the ban lie.

Instead, time and money was wasted on the gay issue while more important problems like jobs for veterans and troop strength were ignored. If the POW/MIA issue ever got the attention that gays received courtesy of the administration, maybe there wouldn't be so many problems regarding U.S. troops missing in action.

Q. How close are we to resolving the POW/MIA issue?

A. The POW/MIA issue may be resolved to the satisfaction of some, but not to the Legion.

By allowing loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to flow

into Vietnam without a full accounting of POW/MIA's, the United States has given up valuable leverage to be used to press Hanoi for more information. The Legion believes that the 18-year U.S. economic embargo and the withholding of IMF money to Vietnam must continue until we get the fullest possible accounting. Evidence continues to suggest Vietnam lied about returning all of our people.

For the families of our POW/MIA's, the nightmare continues. While the government regularly compliments Vietnam's cooperation on this issue, I believe this is empty praise. The Vietnamese know the fate of many U.S. POW/MIA's. Until they tell us the truth, we should hold back money and business from Hanoi.

We also will continue to press for action on POW/MIA's from World War II, Korea and the Cold War.

Q. Looking to the future, there are plans to begin a national service program that may compete with the U.S. Armed Forces for recruits. How harmful is this proposal to our national security?

A. Rewarding young men and women for their public service

work by helping them pay for college is a great idea — that's why we wrote and fought for the original GI Bill. But, the president's national service plan must take into consideration that the people who are on active duty in the military now must feel that they are getting short-changed in the benefits they receive.

To reward young people who do community service with benefits equivalent to those received by those who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces is wrong. While the Legion needs to support the idea of national service, we must be sure military service is given the stature it deserves.

If a national service program induces many young people away from the armed services, it defeats the whole idea of national service. There is no higher national service than military service.

Q. In a post-Cold War atmosphere of confusion, will the Legion continue to fight for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag against physical desecration?

A. Protecting the U.S. Flag is very important. It is a symbol of the freedom we fought for, and it deserves respect. So far 33 states have passed memorializing resolutions to bar physical desecration of our flag, and we're hoping that the number of states will soon reach 38. With 38 states, the move for protection of our flag could be channeled into a constitutional amendment.

Q. What is your vision for the Legion as it approaches the 21st century?

A. Seventy-five years of success is only the beginning for The American Legion. We're going to make this year a championship season, and chart the course for the next 75 years.

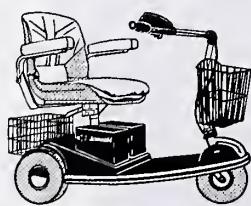
GIs who are being separated from the military need our help. Veterans who may suffer a loss of treatment from a national health-care system need us to protect VA. And communities that can no longer expect federal money to help with disasters will increasingly turn to the Legion for relief.

Yes, we've only begun to see this great Legion of ours contribute to America. I'm looking forward to helping our organization usher in a new era of excellence and honor in this country. That is the standard we must set for our country. That is the standard we must set for ourselves. □

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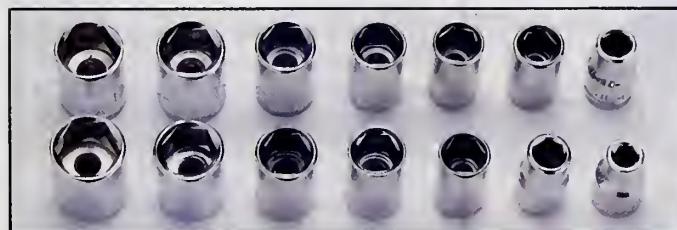
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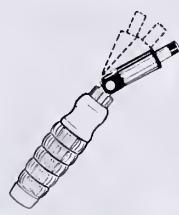


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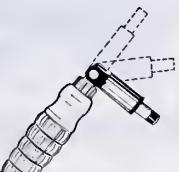
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CHILDREN

Continued from page 27

thing is not merely choice but *what we choose*. Some choices are better than others, and our children must be taught this.

Parents must make their children aware that all choices have conse-

quences. The child that opts for television, instead of studying the night before an exam, will suffer the consequence of a low grade. Too much of today's educational thrust is focused on helping children think about choices instead of focusing on what the right choices are.

Research shows that children crave guidance. For example, ex-convict Harold Morris has built a new life around talks to young people about the dangers of wrong early choices.

"Clearly it all began in high school by drinking alcohol and running with the wrong crowd," he writes in his biography, *Twice Pardoned*. "Drugs came later, and the wrong crowd became desperadoes...one who *crawls with animals catches fleas*. So it was in my life."

Each child must learn reliable standards of right and wrong. Our culture celebrates the philosophy of relativism. We are told that what is right for one person could be wrong for another. No wonder our society is overwhelmed with street criminals, rip-off artists, tax cheaters, savings and loan embezzlers and corrupt politicians.

Thomas Jefferson told his nephew to pursue his own interests and his country's with the "purest integrity, the most chaste honor. . . . Give up money, give up fame, give up science, give up the earth itself and all it contains rather than do an immoral act. And never suppose that in any possible situation or under any circumstances that it is best for you to do a dishonorable thing, however slightly so it may appear to you." Advice like this is what our children need now. They may not hear it in the classroom. The popular culture certainly won't teach it to them. They need to hear it from us.

There are many ways to impart these standards without lecturing. Our history is rich with stories to help children understand reliable standards of right and wrong. One helpful idea is to extend the family dinner hour once a week, or more often, to read aloud from one of our nation's documents.

The Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Second Inaugural, FDR's Christmas radio addresses in wartime and dozens of others can be read at a single sitting. When children take turns, reading and listening skills are developed.

Give children the character to stand against the crowd.

Our children are under incredible pressure in our trend-conscious world. They get countless messages telling them what to wear, what to listen to, and what to do with their bodies. Following the crowd on minor things usually doesn't matter in the long run, but following it on sex, drugs or violence can have lethal impact.

Our children must be taught the courage to stand apart from the crowd. Sometimes the best way for parents to teach that lesson is to be willing to say "no." Every parent has heard the

Please turn page



Without the American Legion, who could tell them it's really worth the effort?

Who could tell our children of the honor of service? Who could better tell them of the value of Family, the virtues of Faith, and the price of Freedom? In the lives of Legionnaires we find the principles we must all tell our children never to forget. *We salute your sacrifice.*



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CHILDREN

Continued from page 62

protest, "But everyone is (doing, seeing, buying, going to) it." Our response has always been, "But we aren't everybody's parents — we're yours. You're not everyone — you're our daughter." These episodes are never easy, but the long-term rewards for firmness, even in an apparently minor matter, will be great.

Standing against the crowd, of course, is often no minor matter at all. Take Orestes Lorenzo Perez, the defector who piloted a tiny Cessna under Cuban radar last Christmas to rescue his wife and children from life under Castro. One man, alone, in a tiny plane over the sea at sunset for no other reason than love of family. There are hundreds of stories like his in Cuba, he told the press. Yes, there are, and parents must take the time to ensure their children know about them.

All of our children, black and white, must be taught to reject racism.

Several days after the Los Angeles riots, a less-noticed tragedy occurred where I live in the Washington, D.C., area. Joseph A. Ford, a 13-year-old honor student, rose to speak at his church. He talked about violence and drugs and urged the congregation to remember that the answer to these problems and all others was salvation through Christ. Moments later, while Joey and his family drove home, he was killed by a single bullet fired in a drug gang shootout. Such deaths in our inner cities are all too common.

The real division in our nation is not between black and white. It's between sides. On one side are good people, like Joey, who believe in right and wrong, the golden rule, faith and family. On the other side are those who reject these values and all that they symbolize.

Our children cannot help seeing the headlines about death and destruction, but we must also ensure they see the positive stories as well. They must not miss what the headlines often omit — the daily courage of citizens who struggle to make something out of South Central L.A. or the South Bronx — the Joey Fords of our world.

And our children must know this nation's heroes, large and small — on whose shoulders they stand.

My father served in World War II. He saw battle in the South Pacific, was wounded and received decorations. He came home after the war and began his life again. I was born in 1946. Dad stayed married to the same wife for 49 years and raised a family in a small city on the Ohio River. When he was older and became sick, he was treated at the Veterans Hospital in Cincinnati. He died in 1990.

My father served this country, and never for a moment did he regret it. He was an extraordinary man, even though there were millions like him. They were an extraordinary generation who made extraordinary sacrifices. But they were ordinary Americans.

I saw another bumper sticker recently, "I Brake for Historical Markers." Where I live, that driver must do a lot of braking. Outside a restaurant in Northern Virginia, stuck between parked cars and the curb, is a marker I ignored many times before I paused to read it. It notes that on that spot Abraham Lincoln reviewed the Union Army after Manassas, at that time the largest military review in history.

In this vast land there are so many sacred spots we scarcely know. How can we teach our children the meaning of today's events — for example, the return of the men and women of Desert Storm — if they cannot connect them with what has gone before? How will they know the worth of freedom if they don't know the price?

YOUR HOPE IS THEIRS

I began by talking about the hope that parents must have for their children, no matter what the circumstances. Our history teaches us all that kind of hope. For all the smoke and flame, America's flag is "still there." For all our faults and fights, this is still a great nation.

America is the town hall, the Lions Club and the volunteer fire department. It is the Boy Scouts and the PTA. American Legion Baseball and Pop Warner football. The Chinese-American Friendship League and the Sons of Italy. It is 3.6 million square miles with scarcely an acre unetched with history. It is a place always inclined to think of itself as young and new.

But, as one glance at the red brick and rust of our great cities will tell you, it has been around a long while. The blood of many families is in those bricks, the residue of much sweat and tears is in that rust. These are the shoulders upon which our children sit. We must teach them not to forget. □

Amazing New Product Gives Crisp, Clear TV Reception WITHOUT Cable!

Until recently, the only convenient way to guarantee great TV reception was to get cable installed. But who wants to pay those irritating monthly cable fees just to get clear reception? Now, thanks to years of micro-electronic research, a new device has been developed that's so advanced it actually makes other antennas a thing of the past. It's called the Super Antenna™ and is without a doubt "the single most important thing you should own if you have a TV!"

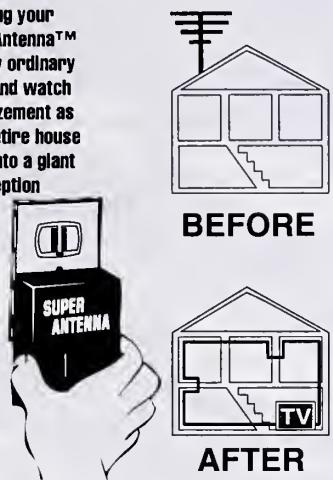
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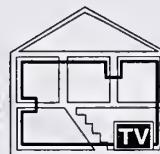
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BEFORE



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BAILEY INTERVIEW

Continued from page 36

Q. Are you saying the world is environmentally perfect?

A. Keep in mind that I only address global ecological issues — “crises” that would destroy the planet but turn out to be hoaxes upon examination. I don’t look into questions of local pollution and, yes, there are parts of the planet with significant local pollution problems.

The former Soviet Union, for instance, is in terrible shape ecologically, but those problems don’t threaten the global ecology.

Q. Why do alarmists want to stir up needless fears?

A. There’s a strong anti-capitalist thread in the environmental movement. A great many “Greens” are highly alienated from today’s technical, capitalist U.S. society. Their hope is to return us to a more primitive, communitarian lifestyle.

In many ways, too, the radicals are

distrustful of democratic politics. In a democracy, people generally look out for their own interests — which often times aren’t the agendas of the alarmists. That’s why they prefer multinational organizations — the United Nation’s Commission on Environment and Development, Earth Summit, and similar groups which essentially are beyond the reach of voters.

Q. What is the role of the press in raising environmental hysteria?

A. The press plays a big part in this. Reporters by training look for the “best” quotes — which usually translate into the scariest — to attract audience attention.

Q. Are there other reasons why the press isn’t doing solid reporting?

A. There’s a pervasive lack of healthy skepticism among environmental reporters. When the media covers business, reporters are very skeptical. They know the business has a financial stake. On the other hand, the press treat environmentalists as though they are selfless individuals dedicated to saving us all — forgetting

that these advocates have vested financial interests in creating hysteria. The greater the public hysteria, the more cash they raise.

Worse still is that more and more journalists now see themselves not as unbiased reporters, but as advocates for the environment. They are showing up in powerful media outlets — CNN, for instance, has several reporters and producers who identify themselves as environmental advocates. One even has written that there isn’t time for balanced reporting. “Can we wait for our audience to come to its own conclusions? I think not,” she wrote in a journalism trade publication. The public has to be very suspicious of most reporting on the environment. Too much environmental reporting is biased. So much is simply bad journalism.

Q. How should we assess environmental “crises”?

A. If I thought the planet would be destroyed, I’d be out carrying the placards. But the facts aren’t there. The basic caution is to always be skeptical of flat out claims — ‘the end of world will happen because of such-and-such.’ That will never be true. The world is too complicated. □

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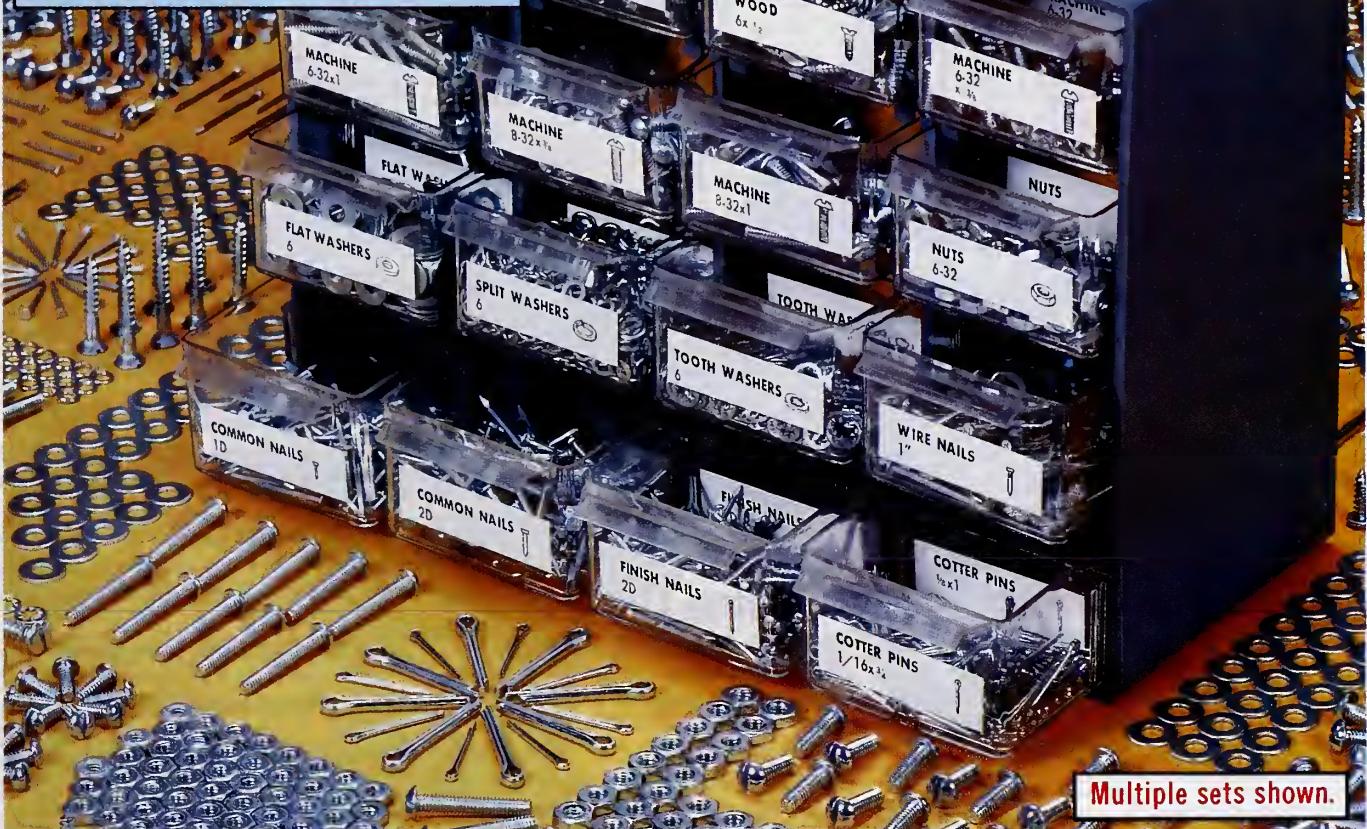
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MOM & POP

Continued from page 29

pant. Even now, Wimmer is president and Ferguson vice-president, although both are equal owners.

The harsh economic climate has forced many couples into business on their own. The husband or wife (or both) may have been laid off from a

corporate job, or the wife may have hit the so-called "glass ceiling," says Kessler. That's the invisible, but all-too-real barrier to how high women can climb in many businesses.

Kessler notes that business women who take time off to have children wind up earning one-third less than women who stay on the job. "When women experience that drop in income," Kessler explains, "they say 'I don't have to deal with that. I'm going to start my own business.'"

Some couples start businesses

because they want more time with their children—and with each other. "Increasingly there are couples turning their backs on a corporate culture that does not seem to embrace family responsibilities and priorities," says consultant Hull.

The Edwards teamed up in business together because they didn't want to wait until retirement to spend time together. First they ran separate careers from their Santa Monica, Calif., home—she as a psychotherapist, he as a political consultant. They launched their couple business in 1980 by writing a book together.

There are many reasons why today's Mom-and-Pop businesses are often in non-traditional areas.

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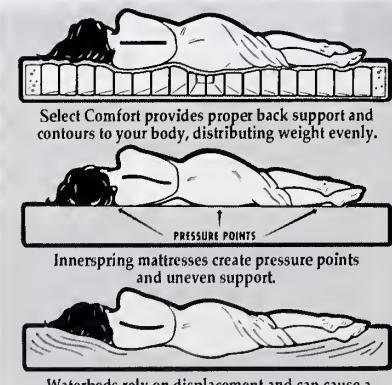
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As American business increasingly becomes big business, there are plenty of niches crying out for someone to fill them.

The Renovator's Supply in Millers Falls, Mass., is a multimillion-dollar business today—making replacement hardware for home renovators. But Claude and Donna Jeanloz first started the business in 1978 because they couldn't find the authentic fixtures they needed for the 200-year-old farmhouse they were renovating. Claude was a management consultant and Donna, a landscape architect. They started the business with their life savings of \$50,000.

While most traditional Mom-and-Pop businesses required a good location to attract customers, many of today's husband-wife businesses can be run from the home. The first office for The Renovator's Supply was the couple's kitchen table. Wimmer and Ferguson began their business in their laundry room.

Both couples began by selling by mail order, which is how many new businesses operate. Mail order can be done dirt cheap—and aimed directly at a target audience.

Wimmer chose doctors and other health-care workers as a receptive

Please turn page

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MOM & POP

Continued from page 68

market for her child development toys. For Claude and Donna, their first mailings to home remodelers have grown to millions of catalogs a year and a magazine, *Victorian Homes*.

The husband-and-wife venture can also overcome a huge—often fatal—problem for most new businesses: finding start-up capital. In a Mom-and-Pop business, one partner can start the business, while the other keeps working to support the family. If the venture takes off, the working spouse can join in.

While there are obvious advantages to husbands and wives teaming up to run a business, there are inherent perils, as well. Here's how the experts advise dealing with the main problems:

Work things out in advance. Decide who does what and who will be boss before you start the business. "Are you pretty much equal, or does one of you think he or she will be call-

ing the shots and one will be working for the other?" asks Sarah Edwards.

When Allan Ferguson joined wife Ruth Wimmer in their business, the two wrote out job descriptions for themselves and for each other. "That gave us a really clear idea of what our expectations were for ourselves, and for one another," says Wimmer.

One issue to be settled in advance, says Wimmer, is the degree of risk each partner is comfortable with. Another is whether the marriage really is strong enough to survive the strains of running a business. "Some marriages would be fine if husband and wife didn't try to work together," she says.

Divide up responsibilities. This makes sense for two reasons. For one thing, it keeps husband and wife from getting under each other's feet. "If you're constantly working on the same problems together, you can drive each other crazy," says Claude Jeanloz. Claude handles manufacturing and marketing for The Renovator's Supply. Donna publishes the magazine, supervises legal matters and represents the company in public.

And dividing responsibilities lets partners concentrate on what they do

best. Wimmer makes sure the company's child development toys are produced. Ferguson makes sure they are sold. "We're fortunate that our abilities and our interests complement one another," Wimmer says.

If there are chores neither partner can—or wants to—handle, you may be wrong for a Mom-and-Pop business. Then you'd have to hire outside help for key functions. It's the rare new business that can afford that.

Give yourself a break. Even a Mom-and-Pop business can't be all work and no play. Couples who spend their days as well as their nights together must give themselves breaks from the business—and from each other. "You have to have time apart and separate interests when you are working together," says Hull. "Otherwise, it can become a very claustrophobic arena."

The busy schedule that Claude and Donna Jeanloz keep doesn't allow as much time as they'd like with their teenage son and daughter. They try to make up for that by leaving the business behind when they can, and taking vacations with the kids.

Put your marriage ahead of your business. Even the most loving of business couples can run into rough patches. As much as they wanted to be together, Paul and Sarah Edwards found that writing their first book turned into what Sarah calls, "three months from hell." She recalls, "We argued over every word."

The couple quickly realized they either must quit bickering or quit working together. The bickering ceased and the two have been devoted business partners as well as life partners ever since. Says Sarah, "We learned that you have to put being in love ahead of being right." □

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Continued from page 12

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- Spouses are also eligible. Call (800) 542-5547 for more information.

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COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

235th Obsn. Bn., Btry. C Robert W. Briesacher needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at the 38th Buffer Zone Forward Outpost 2.0 near Chorwon, South Korea, on Feb. 1, 1954, he fell down the hill, injuring his foot and leg. Contact CID 1214.

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AGENT ORANGE

Continued from page 16

in Arlington, or in Crown Hill, or Custer or any of the hundreds of other cemeteries across the country, the findings of the National Institute of Sciences Institute of Medicine come too late," says American Legion National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle. In early August, the VA General Counsel announced initial benefit parameters for PCT and Hodgkin's. Veterans who file now will not be awarded compensation for any time earlier than the date the regulations become effective.

Veterans who filed claims after May 3, 1989, but before the new regulations become effective, will receive compensation from the date of the claim.

For veterans whose claims were filed prior to May 3, 1989, but denied under the Nehmer case — a class action suit brought by veterans against VA — compensation will be paid from the date of the claim.

Veterans whose claims were ruled on by VA before Sept. 25, 1985, and were not affected by the Nehmer decision must refile. Their original claim is void.

This dashes the hopes of veterans like Tyler, who had assumed VA would help pay some of the enormous backlog of medical bills he has amassed since he became ill. Even those with Hodgkin's and PCT will find no relief from the debts accrued from medical expenses.

But where was VA medical care? In 1981, Congress passed a law allowing VA to treat Vietnam veterans with diseases linked with Agent Orange, even though the ailments had not yet been listed as service-connected. And VA maintains to this day that no veteran suffering from any Agent Orange-related problem has ever been turned away. However, here's the catch.

The veteran first had to pass a means test by showing his earnings were below an income level established by VA. Also, if the veteran had insurance, he had to use it up before he was eligible for VA treatment. For many, like Tyler or Washington's Joe Cole and thousands of others, this

often meant total financial ruin.

In addition, there are hidden costs, says Cole, who suffers from respiratory problems linked to Agent Orange. "I was forced on to Social Security because of my disability. VA counts that as income, so I can't get treatment there. Meanwhile, my family is without insurance because no one can afford insurance on Social Security income."

For Cole, Tyler and others, the NAS/IOM report may be the first step in adding other Agent Orange diseases to the list of service-connected ailments. The report said there was limited but suggestive evidence that respiratory cancers, prostate cancer and multiple myeloma were probably linked to Agent Orange exposure.

However, it noted there was inadequate or insufficient evidence to link Agent Orange with 20 other health problems, including bone cancer, birth defects and peripheral nervous system disorders. And there was little or no evidence that skin cancer, gastrointestinal tumors, bladder cancers or brain tumors were caused by Agent Orange exposure.

VA is studying the NAS/IOM report and was expected to announce a course of action sometime this month. In the meantime, many Vietnam veterans consider the report as a turning point in their long, frustrating struggle for government help.

"Make no mistake, this is a major victory for veterans," says National Adjutant Spanogle. "But there's still much to do. VA must go to its files and locate the veterans and their families who have compensation coming."

Spanogle said The American Legion will continue to seek justice for the tens of thousands of veterans and their families who suffer the ravages of Agent Orange. He said this includes the Legion's lawsuit against VA and the federal government. "I assure you of one thing," says Spanogle. "We will not drop it." □
By Ken Scharnberg

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REUNIONS

Continued from page 54

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 USS Sellstrom DE-255 #12883
 USS Sorrel WAGL-296 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
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 USS Southwind WAG-280 Greenland Patrol 1940/45
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 USS Storis WAGL-38 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12326
 USS Tahoma WPG-80 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12327
 USS Tampa WAG-48 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12328
 USS Travis WSC-153 Greenland Patrol 1940/45 #12329

Merchant Marine

Merchant Marines Veterans WWII (50th ANV) #12278
 US Merchant Marine Vets #20467
 US Merchant Marine Vets (WWII) Kansas Chptr. #12111

Miscellaneous

American Airpower Heritage Museum Symp. "A Sleeping Giant Awakes" (WWI #12800)
 Beirut Veterans of America (ALL SERVICES) #11839
 Burtonwood Assn. (All) #21734
 Confederate Air Force Airshow '93 #12799
 Gitmo Bay, Cuba (1950-Present) #22914
 Iwo Jima Survivors Assn of Texas #22242
 Kaneohe Klippers, USN/USMC #20929
 Korean Veterans of N. Dakota (Canadian & out of State welcome) #11004

Oflag 64 (Szubin, Poland) #12523
 Pacific Stars and Stripes Alumni Assn. #10736
 Shemya Veterans Assn. (ALL BRANCHES) #22945
 Vietnam Womens Memorial Project All Women Personnel Mil. & Civ. #12886
 Wichita Area Vietnam Vets #12570

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (use VETS column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis.

6th DMS Donald Duck patch worn on baseball caps at SAC, Roswell AFB, NM. Contact Paul Vorhies, Rt. 5, Box 5301, Hayward, WI 54843.

Army Air Force memorabilia, for displays at air shows, schools and veterans meetings. Contact William E. Collins, Pennsylvania Wing, WWII Airman's Preservation Society, 210 11th St., Franklin PA 16323-1225. Battalion crest of 82nd Recon. Bn., Fort Hood, Texas, 1950. Contact Rudy Leyva, 2426 Richelieu Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90032.

Crew members of WWII B-17 bomber, "Boomerang's Big Friend," 524th Bomb Sq. 379th Bomb Grp. (H), during June-November 1944, to identify members in a photo. Contact Arthur A. McKinney, 317 Carolyn Ct., Lincoln, NE 68510-2210. Call collect (402) 488-3363.

First-person wartime stories to enliven history classes for students. Contact Rebbecca, Box 1269, Haines, AK 99827.

GIs who fought on Okinawa in 1945 and later visited Kyushu, for an article. Contact Robert P. Newman, 1117 C.L., University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

Information about the Navy's use of Little Chebeague Island, Casco Bay, Maine, during WWII, for historical research. Contact Richard Innes, 7445 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9532. (313) 662-0220.

Families who had relatives in Pulaski's Legion at the massacre, Oct. 15, 1778, at Little Egg Harbor, N.J., for historic purposes. Contact George Czurlanski, Affair at Little Egg Harbor Historical Society, 28 Jefferson Lane, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.

Owners of a cigarette lighter I bought at a garage sale. Engraved on the lighter are the names of James I. and Sharon K. Wilson, 125th Sig. Bn., Feb. 63-May 64, Hawaii. Contact William J. Stevens, 3902 Willow St., Corpus Christi, TX 78411.

Photo of Marine Platoon 278 (1954-56). Contact Joseph Rebaro, 2555 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Photos and information on the O-2 Super Skymasters, especially from Vietnam period. Contact Ray Bain, 1206 Dodd Dr. SW, Decatur, AL 35601.

Photos of WWII aircraft of the Sixth Air Force and Antilles Air Command, for a history. 13th, 14th, 15th, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 30th, 31st, 43rd, 52nd Ftr. Sqns. in Panama/Caribbean region. 1st, 5th, 7th, 12th, 35th, 44th, 45th, 59th, 74th, 99th, 395th, 397th, 417th and 430th Bomb Sqns. 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 15th and 23rd Anti-Submarine Sqns. 5th and 27th Recon Sqns. 39th and 108th Obsn. Sqns. and the 153rd AACs Sq. Contact Dan Hagedorn, P.O. Box 682, Centreville, VA 22020-0682.

Picture post cards, photos, memorabilia of Korea and Korean War, for a book. Contact James Lewis Lowe, P.O. Box 8, Norwood, PA 19074.

USCG veterans of D-day, especially small landing craft coxswains, crew members of 83-footer flotilla and LCI-85, for a book. Contact John E. Schwartz, P.O. Box 702, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

Veterans with first-hand information about "Axis Sally" during WWII, for research/college lectures. Contact Robert D. Boyer, 5585 Greenwich St., Worthington, OH 45085.

VP-23 pilots in the central Pacific from 1943-45, for a book. Contact Don Klotz, 296 Millstone Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.

WWII color slides from all services, theaters, especially aviation, for a book. Will carefully copy and return pronto. Contact Jeff Ethell, Rt. 1, Box 3154, Front Royal, VA 22630.

WWII squadron members of VMTB-135, 143, 144, 234 and VMF-351, for naval aviation research. Contact Jim Dresser, 1222 Marston Ave., Ames, IA 50010. (515) 232-3868.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Albert J. Maffei, Ramon I. Munoz, John A. Silva (1992), William H. Bramson, Vera Erlandsen, Morella S. Staggs (1993) Post 21, Santa Rosa, CA

Geraldine R. Bright (1993) Post 301, Palm Springs, CA Darwin Appel, William Braman, Harold Conroy, Danny Gaudenti, Jerry Kelleher, Karl Prescott, Fred Rathstone, Mike Stranger (1992) Post 817, Panorama City, CA

H. Phipps (1993) Post 128, Marsing, ID George M. Petersen, Raymond P. Rydzinski, Roger V. Scherer, Algird F. Smilgis, Paul J. Soukup, Mike Stambor, Harold A. Wagner, Casimer S. Zajac (1984), Emil J. Divis, Robert R. Schulenberg, Roy White Jr. (1992) Post 383, Chicago, IL

Lee Burlage (1986), John J. O'Connor (1987), Joseph R. Rachuba (1988), William R. Fray, Leo L. Mundie, Raymond J. Peluso, Herman J. Treffinger (1990), Edward R. Huneke Jr., John F. Milburn, Joseph E. Volk, Homer G. Wise (1991), Thomas D. Coffman (1992) Post 183, Baltimore, MD

Alton B. Howard (1992) Post 254, Mikado, MI Lester J. Blackshaw, Charles W. Conover, Floyd L. Halslip, Herbert L. Meyer, Everett H. Milner, Clarence E. Mottaz, Marvin Oden, Robert L. Oliver, Robert S. Spiers, Cecil L. Tarrants, Robert O. Whitehead, George E. Williams (1992) Post 116, Wellsville, MO

Charles Davis, Arthur A. LaMaster, Donald R. Williams Sr., Edward W. Wilson (1993) Post 573, Kansas City, MO

Clifford Dallmann, William G. McGrath (1992), Raymond Blntlf, Louis G. Wargo (1993) Post 39, Roebiling, NJ

Raymond D. Dumaresq (1993) Post 153, Park Ridge, NJ

Thomas J. Cahill, Glenn E. Wright (1992) Post 61, Watertown, NY

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SCHOOL CHOICE

Continued from page 32

skates." Even if his own children grow up before they benefit, "if we win, it will be a victory for all of us, for the whole state and for the country."

A spokesman for the Chicago Public Schools declined to comment on the suit. Others — even some parents — disagree with Jenkins' stand. Public opinion polls show either high support or firm opposition to choice, depending on how the questions are worded.

In one recent test, a voucher proposal on the Colorado ballot last November would have provided up to \$2,500 to parents who send their children to private or parochial schools, or educate them at home. The proposal was voted down decisively.

Yet, proponents argue that choice will foster competition that's at the heart of the American free enterprise system. They say competition will force schools to shape up and offer parents what they want for their children —not what some bureaucracy deter-

mines they need. Critics contend, however, that some choice plans drain financial resources from already struggling school districts and thus threaten the overall quality of public education. Our schools are already in trouble, they say, and evidence so far suggests that choice can make things worse. Top priority is shoring up our local public schools.

Ironically, in pursuit of their cause, both sides argue, *That's the American way.*

THE CASE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE

The idea isn't new. Wealthy parents have always had the option of private education, from nursery school to exclusive prep school.

Even voucher plans have an honorable history in America. For more than a century, Vermont taxpayers have footed part or all of the tuition bill for students in districts without a public high school. By law, tax money can go to the state's public or private institutions.

In the 1950s, conservative economist Milton Friedman suggested a voucher system that drew little support. But by the early 1970s, the St. Paul

Open School in St. Paul, Minn., welcomed 500 students bused in from all over the city. The districtwide plan emphasized math, reading and research skills. The St. Paul Open School still operates successfully today.

Building on its long experience with choice, Minnesota pioneered several programs in the 1980s.

One allowed secondary school students to go to college full- or part-time, using tax funds to pay tuition. Another offered a second chance to students who weren't succeeding in one district. They could transfer to another, or go to private, nonsectarian "street academies" under contract with public schools.

A third program, begun in 1988, inaugurated the country's first statewide choice program. It gives students the right to apply to public schools in any district. These schools, in turn, have the right to reject an application if there is no room, or if transfers would adversely affect desegregation efforts.

Joe Nathan, director of the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, says all the plans have worked well. More than 15,000 students have used the "second chance" program, for example. Many thousands of them would otherwise have dropped out, Nathan says.

One student from a family with drinking problems was expelled when he fulfilled teacher expectations that he would cause trouble, Nathan says. The youngster moved with a clean slate to another district where teachers didn't know his family history and did not prejudge him. He graduated and got a job, requiring none of the taxpayer support that dropouts often need.

Nathan acknowledges that choice programs can go wrong.

He opposes some voucher programs, for example, that permit private schools to choose students on the basis of achievement. Admissions tests can actually reduce choice for low- and middle-income families.

Other proponents argue that vouchers for private schools are the most important form of school choices. "Choice by its very nature requires that there be vigorous competition," says William H. Mellor III, president of the Institute for Justice, the non-profit legal group that's representing John Jenkins. Limiting choice plans to public schools, Mellor argues, means perpetuating "bureaucratic institutional problems that currently plague public education."

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Mellor says existing civil rights laws are sufficient to prevent unfairness in the selection process. Schools would not be able to reject students on the basis of race, for example. But schools should be able to set qualifications ranging from academic achievement to areas of student interest. And they should be able to offer specialized courses of study such as America's black heritage, for example, and then compete in the educational marketplace.

"After all, what we're talking about here is a fundamental freedom," Mellor says. "It's the notion that parents should have the freedom to select the education that best meets the needs of their children."

In fact, today's parents in troubled Russia sometimes have more choice over where they send their kids than most Americans. Some 70 schools in Moscow alone have received charters to operate largely independent of state bureaucracies, according to Charles Glenn, professor of educational policy at Boston University.

The Russian choice plan "isn't

unusual," says Glenn, who recently served as a consultant to the Russian government on school reform. "What's unusual — almost unique in the world — is that the American system is not providing funding for alternative schools that parents choose."

THE CASE AGAINST SCHOOL CHOICE

Parents may indeed like the idea, but comparatively few take advantage of choice options, according to a 118-page report from the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

In statewide programs where parents don't have to choose another district, fewer than 2 percent of parents have elected to switch, the Carnegie report says. Even in Minnesota's pioneering program with a wide range of options, only 1.8 percent of students participate.

The Carnegie study suggests that families who do move a child under such programs tend to be better educated and informed, and enjoy higher incomes. In other words, choice tends

to benefit the more fortunate "chosen" people, critics say, and can leave the less fortunate behind, a process known as "creaming."

Proponents argue that choice promotes competition which in turn should improve education. But parents who do transfer their children often pick a new school because it's closer to home, work or day care, the Carnegie report says. In Minnesota, for example, only 16 percent of parents cited academic reasons for leaving a home district.

The finding raises questions about whether school choice will promote better teaching and more learning — or simply less drive time and more convenience for mom and dad.

"Choice is predicated on the idea that competition makes schools improve," says Amy Wells, assistant professor of education policy at the Graduate School of Education, University of California at Los Angeles. "There's really no evidence of that whatsoever."

A case in point is the nation's most famous voucher plan initiated in 1990

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Shown with EMERALD
for month of May

Black shown
with
BLUE
ZIRCON,
December

BONE
shown
with
AMETHYST,
February

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● WHITE SAPPHIRE April purity and innocence	● ROSE ZIRCON October fulfills hopes and dreams
● EMERALD May the token of true love	● CITRINE November certain loyalty and devotion
● ALEXANDRITE June bringer of vast wealth	● BLUE ZIRCON December brings success in all you endeavor



Shown ACTUAL SIZE
Month of July-RUBY

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CHECK COLOR Next to Month	TAN	BONE	BLACK
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● February AMETHYST			
● March AQUAMARINE			
● April WHITE SAPPHIRE			
● May EMERALD			
● June ALEXANDRITE			
● July RUBY			
● August PERIDOT			
● September BLUE SAPPHIRE			
● October ROSE ZIRCON			
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SCHOOL CHOICE

Continued from page 79

in Milwaukee. One of the private schools in the program for low-income families closed in the middle of the first year after a flurry of charges of mismanagement, lack of books and supplies and poor discipline, according to the Carnegie report.

Of the 562 students who enrolled in

private Milwaukee schools in 1991-92, just 311 came back the following year. Many students however, report that they love their new, private schools. But data such as test scores to show that the system builds better schools are lacking.

Voucher plans remain the most controversial of choice options. Even statewide plans that don't involve private-school choice have encountered snags.

Consider what happened to Brockton, a city south of Boston, Mass. Brockton schools have faced serious

money problems in recent years, and spend less than \$5,000 per pupil, according to the Carnegie report.

A neighboring district, Avon, spends more than twice as much per student and offers better facilities and equipment, including a cable TV station, three kitchens and late-model computers.

When Massachusetts approved a statewide choice program in 1991, more than 100 Brockton students emigrated to Avon — draining almost \$1 million in state aid from Brockton.

Charles Glenn, a proponent of choice, acknowledges that the exodus of students hurt Brockton. In addition to the loss of money, "Disproportionately, the kids [moving] to Avon are white and middle class, leaving behind a disproportionate number of black kids in Brockton," Glenn says.

The central problem is that schools in Massachusetts are funded primarily by local property taxes, leading to high discrepancies even between nearby districts.

In Minnesota, by contrast, 65 percent of the funding for schools comes from the state, according to Nathan, of the University of Minnesota. He says that means "there is far more equity between school districts," thus improving the chances that choice can work.

The Carnegie report concludes that carefully designed districtwide arrangements can help revitalize secondary education. However, it warns against any choice program which weakens the structure of public schools that must offer "excellence for all."

Critics of the Carnegie report say it is heavily biased against choice and it misuses statistics to make some of its major points.

Nathan, for example, says the report vastly underestimates the percentage of parents in Minnesota opting to switch. He acknowledges, though, that some plans don't work — like the original statewide plan in Massachusetts which has now been amended to reduce some of the financial drain on a district when students leave for another.

Nevertheless, Nathan and his fellow educators might have to concede they will have little to do with the direction America's education system will take.

In the end, John Jenkins and millions of other parents will have to make the choices — *What's right for my child? What's right for the future of my country?*

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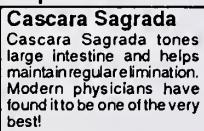
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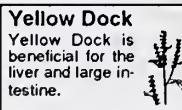
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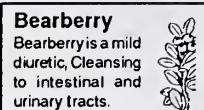
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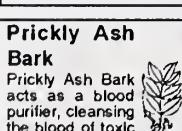
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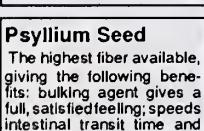
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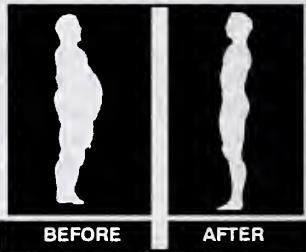
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CHOICE

Continued from page 33

from the GI Bill go to individuals and not to institutions, vouchers should also be used at parochial schools, if parents select them for educational purposes.

In the meantime, public schools would have every incentive to improve by cutting overhead and bureaucracy, and by increasing their responsiveness to the parents' and children's needs. Milwaukee public schools, for instance, reacted swiftly to implement positive reforms in response to the nation's first private school voucher plan — even though it provides vouchers to only 1 percent of the students.

Despite vigorous opposition from teacher's unions, the American public recognizes the value of choice. The Gallup Poll recently showed 70 percent support for choice among the general public.

And the liberal Joint Center for Economic and Policy Studies found over 80 percent support for choice among African Americans who had heard of the idea.

Countless children today suffer in public schools that are crime-ridden and drug-infested. We must not lose another generation while money is poured into public school reforms that leave the ultimate power in the hands of bureaucrats and unions rather than parents.

The GI Bill gave two generations of Americans the access to quality education. Under the same principles, it's time to give choice a chance. □



NO CHOICE

Continued from page 33

lic schools to private schools. The people of Colorado want what most Americans want: They want better public schools; they don't want to abandon the public school system.

Great Myth 2. Private schools greatly outperform public schools.

The truth is, private schools often screen applicants in order to limit their risks and are free to expel their mistakes. Under these conditions, you'd expect private schools to substantially outperform public schools. The surprise is, they don't.

Private school students score only modestly better than public school students on national tests. Moreover, this so-called private school advantage disappears when researchers take into account demographic differences between students served in private and public schools.

Plenty of evidence supports the effectiveness of our public schools. The overwhelming majority of troops

who performed so magnificently in Desert Storm are graduates of U.S. public schools. Those Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from the Red Sea didn't have Honda nameplates, nor is the Stealth a product of Mitsubishi.

Undoubtedly, graduates of American public schools constituted the majority of those who designed, built and deployed these weapons systems.

Great Myth 3. Voucher enthusiasts claim competition between private and public schools is healthy. Such competition, they say, will improve education for all students.

True, competition is healthy when everyone plays by the same rules. However, rules differ for private and public schools. Public schools accept all children; private schools can carefully select their students. Public schools comply with myriad regulations intended to ensure accountability. Private schools are either wholly or largely exempt from such regulations.

All American public and private schools need improvement. Choice is a populist notion that at best offers limited promise for school improvement. At worst, school choice without limits could dash all hope for equal education opportunity for many citizens. □

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VETVOICE

Continued from page 6

rights—whether in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, Haiti or anywhere else. Now that the Hanoi Marxist-Leninist totalitarian regime no longer receives a penny of assistance from communist China and the defunct Soviet Union, is there any rationale for the United States to replace them—and support Hanoi, which is so repressive and barbaric that the boat people prefer being indefinitely incarcerated in Hong Kong's sordid camps to returning to Vietnam? Is there any valid reason to reward Hanoi for consistently lying on the humanitarian issue of MIA/POWs?

Phan Quang Dan

Former Deputy Prime Minister of

South Vietnam

Temple Terrace, Fla.

Space Station Way Out

We should not pursue the space station project ("Should Congress Cancel The Space Station Program?" Big Issues, July). Tests designated for the space station could easily be carried out by space shuttles. As a veteran, I am sickened by the diversion of much-needed funding from far more worthy veterans programs.

Robert W. McGrath
League City, Texas

Postal Note

Again the Legion is accusing the U.S. Postal Service of raising non-profit rates unnecessarily (Your American Legion, May). But did you know that the Postal Service is with you 100 percent? They want Congress to provide the appropriation.

During the past three years, Con-

gress has underfunded revenues, which is the subsidy provided to non-profit mailers. This caused the debt of the Postal Service for the past three years to be about \$100 million. Congress is holding the purse strings, not the Postal Service. Stop blaming the Postal Service for increases in costs.

Stanley M. Gold
Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Thanks VETS

Through your VETS service, I found an organization called WAF Reunion and learned of their sixth annual reunion at Fort Worth, Texas, where I was stationed in 1952-53. I attended the reunion in June and had a wonderful time making new friends and reminiscing about the good old days. I encourage other former members of the Women in the Air Force to join and share the fun.

Again, my thanks to VETS.

Joan G. McKinney
Tulsa, Okla.

Sailor's Lament

In the VETS section of the July issue, the name of DE 355 was spelled Jiscard. That is wrong. It is USS Jiscard. I know, because I was on her.

Jerry O'Sullivan
Oak Lawn, Ill.

Gays In The Military

Ron Ray's article ("A Question of Health," June) was the first time I've ever read the acts of homosexuals explicitly detailed. Now I and many others who have heard so much about "homos" can completely understand what they consider to be their "rights."

Francis E. Dunne Sr.
Ridge, N.Y.

The article, "A Question of Health," should be sent to all members of Congress and President Clinton. Some of

the facts in the article are things I didn't know, even though I spent 20 years in the Navy.

Frank D. Mione
Toms River, N.J.

Morale would drop if homosexuals are allowed to serve, and many of our best career-minded military men would resign from the Armed Forces.

Stanley J. Ginda
Carteret, N.J.

I've seen one homosexual make 25 men leave the service. I think that speaks for itself.

Harold Archer
Colorado Springs, Colo.

The main reason homosexuals should not be allowed in the military is that they form a subculture and will promote each other in rank. We can look forward to a general staff of homosexuals. Sounds like a new Nazism.

James R. Myre
Jefferson, Texas

Boys State Tradition

The article "America's Future Convenes" (August) brought back many memories. I attended Michigan Boys State in the summer of 1949. Of all the activities in which I was involved as a senior in my high school, Boys State stands out more than any other.

My son also attended Michigan Boys State, and by some strange coincidence, he was a resident of the same county and same city as I — 40 years later.

Of all the activities The American Legion sponsors, this is one activity I hope will continue.

W.J. Love
Kentwood, Mich.

Bureaucracy Busting

The article "Bureaucracy's Gotta Go!" (August) blew me away. I was so worked up I just had to jump on this subject. I have been a government employee for 26 years and a supervisor for five years. Ted Gaebler is on the mark with his information, and I intend to copy the article and send it to my congressman, senator and the President. Maybe one of them will read it and get a good idea.

Thank you for printing this type of thinking. Maybe someday the politicians can get the theatrics out of government and give the system back to the people.

Timothy J. Stumpf
Lorton, Va. □

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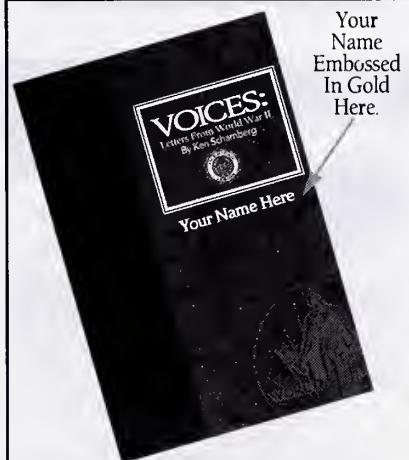
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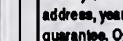
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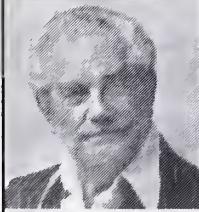
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Choose from 4 great colors and match up with Comfort Joe Slacks for an outfit you'll relax in all Fall and Winter! An unbelievable value at ONLY \$14.95 each. Perfectly yarn dyed to match the slacks in 100% Acrylic knit, brushed inside to fleecy softness. NO-IRON wash and wear. Roomy cut and two — Yes, TWO — handy side pockets! Imported.